

## INSIDE TODAY

### U.S. NEWS

#### HUBBLE MISSION

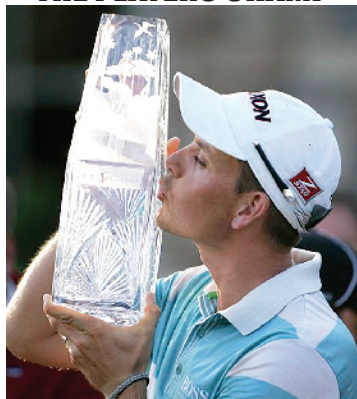


The rotating service structure backs away from the space shuttle Atlantis Sunday May 10, 2009 at the Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla. Seven astronauts are making final preparations for their 12-day mission, that includes the fifth and final servicing of the Hubble Space Telescope.

See INTERNATIONAL NEWS


## SPORTS NEWS

### THE PLAYERS CHAMP



Henrik Stenson, of Sweden, kisses the winner's trophy after his four shot victory at The Players Championship golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., Sunday, May 10, 2009. Stenson's 6-under-par 66 gave him a 12-under-par total and the win.

See Sports Today



**Price of a barrel of petroleum today:**

**US\$ 58.30**

## Tremendous Mother's Day Brunch at Renaissance Convention Center



ORANJESTAD – Mother's Day Champagne Brunch at the Renaissance Convention Center was a family affair with many locals getting together to celebrate the most important women in their lives.

Guests were entertained by the Dynamic Band with Calos Olarte while they feasted on

many local favorites including pastechis in the breakfast section, oysters, shrimp and mussels in the seafood station including delicious Creole-style ceviche and fresh sushi.

Chef Chino's seafood chowder, grouper with mango sauce, cole stoba, cabrito stoba and the carving station, received



many compliments, and the amazing dessert buffet was enthusiastically received.

**Continued on page 8-9**

## Adventure Golf closes doors after 16 years



BUBALI – Yesterday, Adventure Golf closed their doors after 16 years of business on the island. It was a great surprise for the employees when they arrived at work on Sunday, to find the locks changed and a note from the owners informing them that the company had closed its doors.

Due to the slow economy, the current owners were forced to close business. The sudden closing came as a surprise to all employees, who now must scramble to make ends meet.

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**MONDAY McNUGGETS\* 10 PIECES**

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# Mother's Day celebration at the David Yurman Boutique



**Fishes & More**  
"The Restaurant"



## The Earlybird menu

Served between 4 pm & 6.30 pm

Soup of the day

Mixed Salad or Ceasar Salad

\*\*\*\*\*

Catch of the day

Filet Mignon

Fettuccini Alfredo

Chicken Breast

\*\*\*\*\*

Hot chocolate fudge Sunday

\*\*\*\*\*

All main courses are served with  
potatoes au Gratin & fresh vegetables  
The early bird menu is priced at \$ 21,75

Service charge not included.

**For reservations call 586-3659**

ORANJESTAD -- Gandelman Jewelers hosted an exclusive presentation of the latest collections by a David Yurman representative, at the new David Yurman Boutique in the Renaissance Mall.

In appreciation of their patronage all shoppers received an opportunity to win a select timepiece from the David Yurman collection, at the end of the much-enjoyed evening.

Gina Franceschini, a US visitor to the island was the lucky winner.

In our pictures, she is showing off her new watch and posing with her husband, the Gandelman's crew and other invited guests for a photo opportunity.



*Located at Bobby's Marina, Sint Maarten*

# A brand new Aruba Aloe store opened its doors

After many months of preparation, Aruba Aloe opened its brand new store in Sint Maarten this week. Located just outside the Cruise ship terminal at Bobby's Marina, the store offers a variety of Body, Sun and Hair Care products made with 100% pure Aruba Aloe Vera.

Joanne Croes, Retail manager of Aruba Aloe, is very proud of the new store: "This is Aruba Aloe's first retail store outside of Aruba and we are convinced that the people of Sint Maarten will love our products as much as we do. Our store offers a variety of products, from sunscreens to shampoos and lotions, and we also have great gift sets

to bring home to your family and friends. All our products are made with 100% pure Aruba Aloe and believe me, your skin will notice the difference."

Aloe Vera is a very powerful skin moisturizer; it soothes and softens the skin and helps the natural healing process of damaged skin. Regular use helps to prevent wrinkles and so helps to provide and maintain a smooth and healthy skin. Great to know after a long day in the sun: Aloe Vera helps to alleviate and heal the itching and redness of the skin caused by skin burns & sunburn!

While the brand is growing around the word, Louis



Posner, managing director of Aruba Aloe Balm N.V. states: "We continue to focus on achieving our goal, which is to make Aruba Aloe for Aruba what Coca Cola is for the United States and Heineken for the Netherlands."

Aruba Aloe stores on Aruba can be found at the Renaissance Mall, the Paseo Herencia Mall and at the Aruba Aloe Factory. For more information visit [www.ArubaAloe.com](http://www.ArubaAloe.com) or call 588-3222



## MONDAY'S CRAB NIGHT



**\$ 34.95** per person + 15% s.c and 3% Gov. tax

Caesar salad with fresh Caribbean shrimp and Mandarin orange slices  
The GIANT crab sampler includes Alaskan king crab legs, snow crab legs, fried soft shell crab, stuffed crab back, Maryland crab cake, lemon, Tartar sauce and drawn butter.



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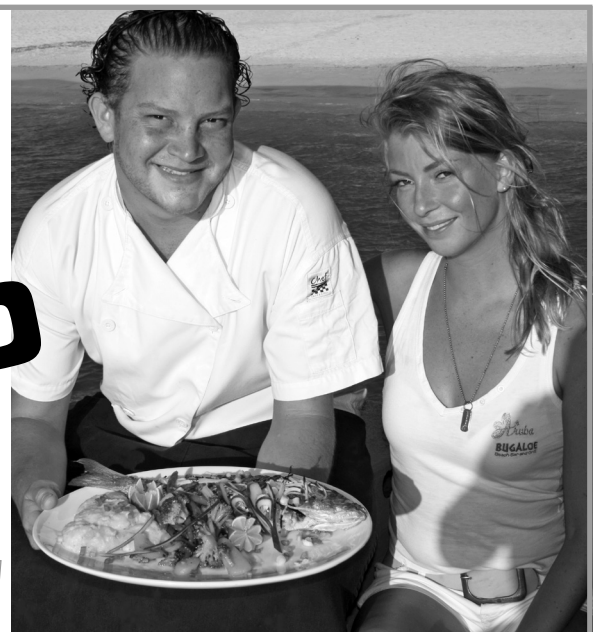
# CRAZY FISH MONDAY

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## FCCA hosts a spectacular dinner party at Amazonia



PALM BEACH – Amazonia Churrascaria received over 40 ladies working at FCCA for dinner on the eve of Mother's Day. The party was put together by Angelie Wanga who organized the much-enjoyed evening. Fundacion Cas pa Comunidad Arubano celebrated its 30th year of existence recently. The institution manages popular and affordable housing developments on the island. Pictured here the FCCA group having fun at Amazonia Churrascaria, the Brazilian style eatery, on Palm Beach, a favorite among all mother's!.







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- ★ American Cheese
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## Let's Go Fly A Kite with Kiwanis Club Aruba



CALBAS – The Kiwanis organized a Kite Flying event on the sport field of Calabas with 95 kites competing in originality, design, construction, airworthiness and beauty. This is the 34<sup>th</sup> year of the

popular event, held as part of the festivities in honor of Queen's Birthday on the island. The Kiwanis added some DJ music and a BBQ to go with the excitement of the day and trophies for winners.

Taken out of Mary Poppins, Banker George Banks explains it best: With tuppence for paper and strings, you can have your own set of wings. With your feet on the ground, you're a bird in flight! With your fist holding tight, to the string of your kite! Let's go fly a kite up to the highest height, let's go fly a kite, and send it soaring, up through the atmosphere, up where the air is clear, Oh, let's go fly a kite!



### Appetizer

- Fish Soup
- Onion Soup
- Conch Fritters
- Fish Cake
- Salad

### Entrée

- Fresh Catch of the Day prepared by our local chef just the way you like it.
- Jumbo Shrimp from our local waters, breaded served with potato or rice or with garlic tossed over linguine.
- Filet Mignon 8 oz. US Tenderloin
- Grilled Boneless Chicken Breast

### Dessert

- Chocolate or Banana Cake
- Ice Cream
- Coffee / Tea

3-course dinner  
**\$24** per person

\* This special cannot be used with any other promotions, vouchers or certificates.

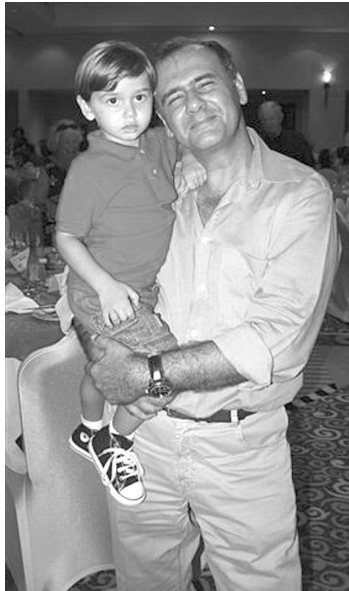


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# Radisson Entertained Families with Great Food & Good Music



**PALM BEACH** – Mother's Day brunch at the Radisson Aruba Resort Spa & Casino was held in the Grand Caribbean Ballroom and entertained over four hundred locals and visitors.

Executive Chef Hector Espinoza presented an exciting menu featuring new salads such as Orange Mint Scented Couscous with Feta Cheese Salad, Apple and Potato Salad with Mustard Cream Dressing, Walnut Chicken Salad with Sundried Cranberries, Seafood Pasta Salad with Saffron Dressing and many delicious Gourmet Entrees such as Pan Fried Grouper with Asparagus, Eggplant Puree and Sweet and Sour Red Beet Emulsion, Macadamia Nut Crusted Chicken Breast with Roasted Coconut and Lemon Grass

Herb Oil, Roast Pork with Apple Gravy, Sausage Stuffing and Caramelized Golden Mangoes, Creamy Cheese Tortellini with Asparagus & Sundried Tomatoes in Creamy

Pesto Sauce, and Potato and Portobello Mushroom Gratin. The Weekend Stay for pre-sale ticket buyers were the Rijkse from Savaneta. A Larimar Spa Treatment went to Andy

Lopez, Santa Cruz; Laguna Breakfast to Elvira Orman, Gielstraat; Laguna Breakfast to Rudella Benjamin, Roncado; Laguna Dinner to Melina Bareño, Piedra Plat; Laguna Dinner to Jadira Faro,

Papaya; Sunset Grille Dinner to Natasha Matai, San Barbola and a Weekend Stay to Patricia Peters, Apachenstraat. Pictured here Mother's Day Brunch snapshots.



# The French Steakhouse Gets a Seasonal Refresh



Eagle Beach – Locals and visitors have been looking forward to the seasonal menu tweak and recharge of the French Steakhouse, under the expert direction of executive chef George Hoek. The good news reached us just recently. The master has finally revealed his grand retouch, resulting in a packed dining-room every night of the week.

Among appetizers Chef George now lists his popular classics, Escargot a la Pernod and Prosciutto Ham & Melon

next to his novel selections, Authentic Aruba Keeshi Yena and Tropical Crab Cakes with pineapple and mango salsa.

The classic menu of the French Steak House received a pepped-up twist, also evident in the salad section featuring a Honey Glazed Salmon Salad and a Hearts of Palm with Roasted Pepper salad.

The menu now boasts more seafood, from fresh fish to the totally sinful and amazingly decadent Caribbean Stuffed Shrimp with Crabmeat and

Bacon, which became an instant hit. The tequila and sweet chili glaze, lends the Jumbo shrimp a pure taste of heaven! The famous South American Churrasco steak, a signature preparation, now shares the limelight with juicy USDA beef specialties such as NY Sirloin and Filet Mignon. And Chef George definitely took the boring out of chicken with his Jerk Curried Skewers and Lemon Herb Broilers.

Open seven days a week from 5:30 p.m. - 11:00 p.m. the French Steakhouse is blessed with the nicest staff and a delightfully renovated dining room with sparkling China, crisp linen, an interesting bread basket, colossal desserts and live jazz on piano with Eddy Samson.

Hungry patrons will appreciate the Ambassador's 5-course menu featuring the run of the menu highlights for just \$34.95 per person, at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, on Eagle beach. □



## Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar perfects beach cuisine



Eagle Beach – Pega Pega Café & Beach Bar at the Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa recently unveiled its new lunch & cocktail menu, conceived and presented by executive chef George Hoek.

A few months ago, when Chef Hoek joined the Manchebo's culinary team, he promised to introduce a "Sun Splashed" menu to the resort's Café & Beach Bar, thus elevating beach cuisine to an ultimate high.

True to his promise, the chef delivered a contemporary menu, listing many favorite dishes from around the world, deriving inspiration off US, Mexican, Thai, Jamaican, Cuban, Greek and Mediterranean menus, all served with a tropical, Caribbean flair.

For starters to Sun-Sational Salads, to open

face sandwiches, Cuban pressed jawbreakers and wraps, Chef Hoek went out of his way to bring novelty to mid-day platters, while not forgetting the classics, which also make an appearance on his menu starring oversize Beef Burgers, Philly Cheese Steak Sandwiches and Hot Dogs.

The Pega Pega tropical & frozen cocktail list, with fresh fruit or ice cream smoothies, daiquiris, coladas and margaritas, leaves nothing out, including Yellow Birds, Sex on the Beach and Mudslides, making a lunch-time brain-freeze, extremely easy to get!

The Pega Pega, one of Aruba oldest beach bars is open on fabulous Eagle Beach, with unrivaled views, caring, gracious service, and relaxed atmosphere, from 12 noon to 5 p.m. The bar opens at 11 a.m. to 11 p.m. □



## Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano delivers authentic Italian flavors



Eagle Beach -- Italian food lovers needn't walk far. Giorgio's Ristorante Italiano located within walking distance of all low-rise resorts, at the charming Manchebo Beach Resort & Spa, delivers Mamma Mia cuisine. The Manchebo's Executive Chef George Hoek concocted an irresistible menu of Italian classic specialties with a contemporary feel, served al fresco, on the garden terrace or around the tropical pool.

From Anti Pasti to Insalata, Zuppa to Pesce, the menu welcomes diners with familiar recipes, which distinctly demonstrates the talents of Executive Chef George Hoek, a master of flavorful sauces, delicious combinations and delightful presentations

At the heart of the menu, the Pasta section, delivers a nice variety to be shared by two or enjoyed unabashedly solo – go ahead, you only live once. Pizza appears on Giorgio's menu for

those craving thin crusts and ample toppings, with a selection of classic pies made to order and served with a genuine Italian accent. Angelo, the Maitre D is Italian, naturally. Giorgio's Piatti Principali feature a hit-parade of dishes, which make it very difficult to choose.

Giorgio's Osso Bucco will have you moaning with great satisfaction as you heap the braised veal shanks flavored with herbs and a red wine reduction, escorted by potato gnocchi, onto your fork, getting lost in the symphonic, robust flavors.

Chef George says General Manager Edgar Roelofs, is an incredibly valuable addition to our team as his food is divine, and his desserts deserve a special article on their own!

To check things out yourselves, call Giorgio's at the Manchebo Beach Resort. It is open for dinner nightly. □





# Tremendous Mother's Day Brunch at Renaissance Convention Center



ORANJESTAD – Mother's Day Champagne Brunch at the Renaissance Convention Center was a family affair with many locals getting together to celebrate the most important women in their lives.

Guests were entertained by the Dynamic Band with Calos Olarte while they feasted on many local favorites including pastechis in the breakfast section, oysters, shrimp and mussels in the seafood station including delicious Creole-style ceviche and fresh sushi. Chef Chino's seafood chowder, grouper with mango sauce, cole stoba, cabrito stoba and the carving station, received many compliments, and the amazing dessert buffet was enthusiastically received. Mother's Day brunch also promoted a fun trip to the Renaissance sister property in Curacao, and many other door prizes.

The children were delighted with the Kids' Corner munching pizza and hotdogs, getting their faces painting, enjoying popcorn, cotton candy and the Dino Jump. Upon departure, all moms were honored by a rose. Our pictures attest to the fact that it was a spectacular success.



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# “Aruhiba” Aruba’s homemade cigar



ORANJESTAD - Benjamin Petrochi has started the newest

export product of Aruba, locally produced cigars called ‘Aruhiba’. These cigars are produced and cultivated in Aruba. Petrochi has always had an interest in the cigar business and has also sold cigars from outside, and now he is growing his own tobacco crop. After many attempts and trips to Santo Domingo and Cuba he started his own production and cultivation of “Aruhiba” cigars in Aruba. The process took 5 years Petrochi’s dedication to the cigars is important for the molding and



process of making a perfect cigar which takes a long time. The cigar case is specially designed for the cigars with the logo ‘Aruhiba’ and ‘Made in Aruba’. Petrochi considers ‘Aruhiba’ a promotion for Aruba through fine quality cigars.

The company sells international cigars as well. Buy a gift box of Aruhiba Corona with five cigars and get 1 free for \$35.00. Located at the Historic Dutch



Windmill from 9am to 8pm. Open on Sunday. And also at Tamarijn: open 9am - 5pm and Sunday from 9am to 1pm. The only place to get Aruhiba and all major credit cards accepted. We have homemade and best premium Cuban Cigars. All cigars are legal through costum. Call 586-7833 or 593-6177. Open for tour operators and we have a large parking space. Come and see Mr. Petrochi rolling the cigars everyday.



*At the Crystal Theater*

## “Havana Dance,” is the hottest Cuban show on the island



ORANJESTAD - The Dance” explodes on stage with a thrilling mix of Latin & Cuban music, colorful costumes and high energy, the magnificent “Havana contemporary Cuban

dance.

“Havana Dance” is the biggest stage production in the Caribbean, featuring Cuban dancers and entertainers directly from Havana. The show delivers a purely Cuban spectacle, with a cast of 12 female ballerinas, 4 male dancers, 2 singers and 3 acrobats, performing a fresh program accompanied by live Cuban music performed on stage by a genuine Cuban orchestra, consisting of 5 professional Cuban musicians. This live dance AND live music combination as seen in our pictures, is ‘first of its kind’ on the island.

While the greater part of the “Havana Dance” review enjoys predominantly Cuban flavor, the show is graced with a truly unique Caribbean choreography, and many tropical touches. “Havana Dance” unfolds on a two-tiered stage, with entrances and exits to and off the arena at different heights, which presents a



new visual concept. The custom-designed costumes are sensual, daring, colorful, and luxurious and set “Havana Dance” apart from any other cabaret. Producer Steve Hudson who enjoyed an unprecedentedly-successful seven-year run with his previous “Let’s Go Latin” review, conceived and created an exciting and much-evolved new must-see spectacle. Tickets for “Havana Dance” are US\$ 49.- Children under 12 pay US\$25.- Tickets are available at the theater box office, Renaissance Aruba Resort, and can also be purchased

at the concierge’s desk at the Renaissance Aruba Resort. Other ticket vendors include the De Palm Tours and Pelican Adventure Activity Centers at the resorts. A special dinner & show package is also available in conjunction with the L.G. Smith’s Steak & Chop House for US\$89.- per person. For additional information and reservations call the Crystal Theatre at Tel.: 583 6000, ext. 6115, between 9 a.m. and 5 p.m. After 5 p.m., call tel.: 583 6000 ext. 6357. Don’t miss an opportunity to be greatly entertained by the sizzle of “Havana Dance.” □







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**Tuesday** Bravo Italiano

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**Thursday** Chateaubriand, Oo-la-la

**Friday** International Seafood Festival

**Saturday** Simply Perfect - Prime Rib

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## Introducing Beach BBQ at the Holiday Inn

# U.S. Celebrity Chef Jay McCarthy shows Aruba how to smoke



Photo by Julia Renfro

PALM BEACH – This week, Celebrity Chef Jay McCarthy, currently hailing from Texas, shared his smoking meat techniques. He starts by telling us that it takes an hour per pound to smoke the meats to the perfect flavor and tenderness. Chef Jay and the

Holiday Inn staff prepared a fantastic BBQ with a variety of different cuts for the local Press to sample. The afternoon was accompanied by buckets of cold Balashi Beer. Chef Jay introduced the Holiday Inn's new theme night "Beach BBQ, a Pit Full



Photo by Julia Renfro

of Fun and Flavor" this week and it will repeat even Monday night at 6 pm by the pooldeck. Chef McCarthy sounds like a combination of more than



Photo by Julia Renfro

one man himself. In addition to working as a chef for more than 30 years, he holds a degree in aerospace engineering; he's the corporate chef for five restaurants in Vail/Beaver Creek, Colo.; a representative of the U.S. Meat Export

Federation, teaching other chefs around the world how to cook with underutilized products; and most recently, a co-developer and sponsor of Portmeirion's Ultimate Steak Plate.

**Photos by Julia Renfro**

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Ahoy Matey bring this ad in for a free glass of house wine





# Ellioti's delivers a cozy soft opening party



Ellioti's menu, as revealed at the opening party features cold appetizers such as Carpaccio & Mozzarella Capresa, hot appetizers such as Fried Calamari, Seafood Crepes & Eggplant Parmesan, traditional Italian soups including Pasta E Fagioli, a nice selection of fresh salads including Hearts of Lettuce with Gorgonzola, an exciting pasta menu with Fettucine Alfredo, cheese stuffed Cannelloni, Gnocchi all Marinara, Tortelloni alla Panna, and Penne all Arabbiatta, just to name a few.

Continued on page 13



**PUNTA BRABO** –Ellioti's Italian restaurant hosted a soft-opening party last week, flaunting a cozy atmosphere, nice decorations and delicious food. The restaurant, in the low-rise hotel area within the Costa Linda Beach Resort boundaries, and adjacent to the Alhambra Casino, is located next to Pizza Bob's, the best kept pizza secret on the island, and just like the popular pizzeria, Ellioti's restaurant features a lovely outdoor terrace and elegant indoor seating, serving gourmet

Italian entrees in a casual and friendly atmosphere. Both restaurants are managed by Adriana Sanchez, who is seen here in the pictures greeting her guests during the soft-opening party. Adriana is a true believer in personal service and customer satisfaction and her hands-on management style at Pizza Bob's paid off, the place is hopping, especially weekends, which inspired the owners to also launch Ellioti's Italian restaurant practically on the other side of the wall.



Continued from page 12

The main courses feature Chef Elliott's signature catch of the day creations with Fish alla Pizzaiola or Pistachio Crusted. The restaurant serves Caribbean Lobster and seafood on a bed of linguine, and does not hold back on the portions.

Beef and chicken are also featured with Chicken and Veal Parmesan, Veal Scaloppini and Pepper Steak. Elliott's own favorite, tenderloin stuffed with roasted garlic and topped with sweet red wine sauce and gorgonzola on the side, is a match made in heaven.

While the menu also delivers pasta as a main course at very affordable prices, you are advised to save some room for dessert with Profiteroles, Tiramisu and Panacotta made fresh every day. Pictured here, opening snapshot, celebrating the opening of the restaurant with press members, neighboring hotel executives, friends and family members, with live music by Tommy.





**WINE, LIQUOR & SPECIALTIES**

Le Gourmet situated at the Village in-front of Radisson Hotel is Aruba's finest Wine, Liquor and Specialty store, offering a vast array of the finest wines that you can find from France, Italy, California, Chile, Argentina, New Zealand, Spain, Australia, South Africa, we also offer a great variety of liquors and hard liquors, beers, and special cheeses, chocolates, coffee and much more. Le Gourmet has a comfortable browsing atmosphere and an extremely knowledgeable and friendly staff, we guarantee the best prices on the high rise strip, Le Gourmet is an all-in-one fine beverage and gourmet shopping experience.






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# Kyle Solognier turns 2 with loved ones



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ARUBA-OnFriday May 1<sup>st</sup> 2009, Kyle Ethan Solognier celebrated his second birthday with loved ones. The birthday celebration took place at the magical reef home owned by grandparents Dr. Lin and his lovely wife Gladys. SueAnn Lin, mother of Kyle and his lovely sister Maylin, 3, enjoyed a fun filled afternoon with family members and friends who joined in to make this a memorable birthday celebration.





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## An Intimate and Romantic Beach Ceremony for Oklahoma couple



EAGLE BEACH -Tad and Carla Bohlen, from Tulsa, Oklahoma, exchanged their vows on Bucuti's 14 acres of pristine, powder white beach. The couple described the location as "the perfect setting

for a beach wedding". The couple enjoyed their dream beach wedding with a fiery red sun setting behind them. The Pirates Nest Restaurant catered a 5 course private

dinner on the deserted beach complete with a dedicated steward in tuxedo.

Tad is an engineer and Carla works in an office as a receptionist. The couple met in a karate class.

On February 22, 2008 just a week after Valentine's Day, the couple got engaged during a cruise to the Bahamas. The wedding plans ensued and both preferred an intimate and romantic affair.

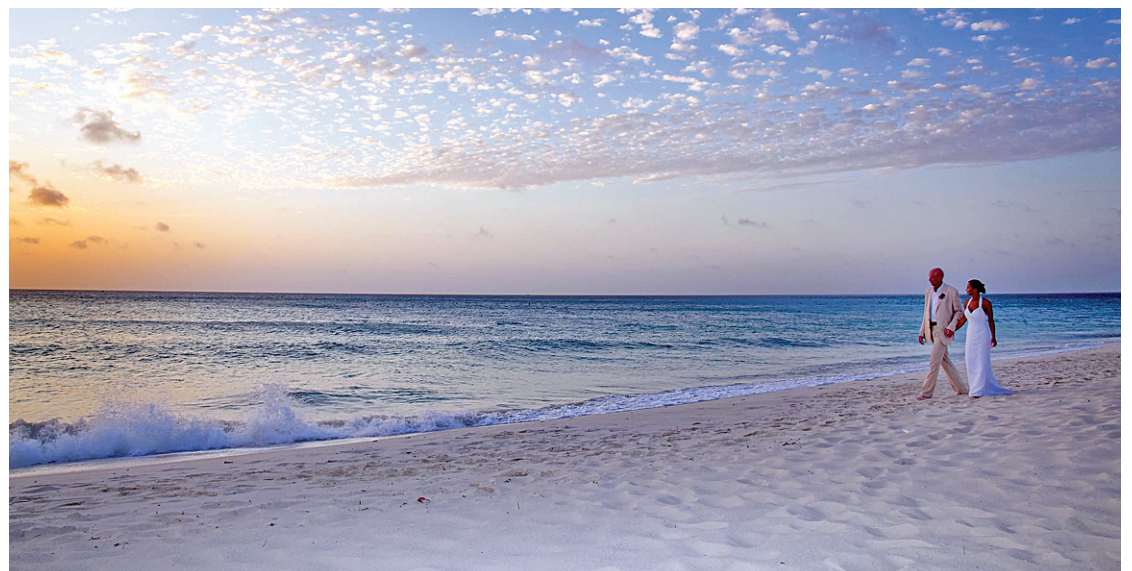
When asked why they choose Aruba, the newlyweds replied: "We had heard how beautiful Aruba was from many friends. Aruba is the perfect setting for a beach wedding"

Mr. and Mrs. Bohlen expressed



thanks to Nashette Wouters, Bucuti's wedding planner and the entire wedding team of the resort. "The Bucuti was exactly what we were looking for our wedding. Nashette did an outstanding job. Our wedding

was everything we dreamed it would be. It was beautiful, elegant and perfect" Mr. and Mrs. Bohlen celebrated their honeymoon in one of Bucuti's award winning Tara Beach Suites.





# Eagle Beach to be enriched with an Oasis

[WWW.OASISARUBA.COM](http://WWW.OASISARUBA.COM)

LEARN HOW YOU CAN BECOME PART OF THIS LUXURY CONDOMINIUM RESIDENCE



**EAGLE BEACH** - Oasis Luxury Condominiums is a Mediterranean-style designed complex located on the prestigious Eagle Beach right next to Chalet Suisse consisting of a total of 35 units distributed on five (5) floors. The one, two and three bedroom suites have a perfect view of the ocean and beach. The units include, among other amenities, floor to ceiling glass doors and panoramic windows, spacious terraces, marble bathrooms, European kitchens with granite counter tops and a full stainless steel appliance package including washer and dryer. This 35-condominium complex will feature a beautiful swimming pool with a beach style entry with

waterfalls and fountain and state of the art fiber optic lighting. The entrance of the building has a drive-up covered entrance and an elegant two-story lobby leading to the sun-filled hallways and corridors. The common area will facilitate the owners with a well-equipped gym overlooking the gardens and the pool. The garden will feel like an oasis true to the projects name. There will also be a recreation room and sofas throughout the com

mon area to lounge and relax.

Further amenities include a 24/7 security, a full concierge and a rental program for the owners who want to earn a return on their investment. The concierge service will be helpful to assist the owners in making their 'homecoming' a very pleasant return. Each condo will have one designated parking space exclu-

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sive to the owners.

Construction on Oasis at Eagle Beach is moving fast. Fifteen of the thirty five units have already been sold. The condominiums will be ready for occupancy by March 2010. Oasis is located on Eagle Beach which allows for an easy access, even on foot, to the best casinos, restaurants, golf courses, shopping areas and night life the Aruba has to offer.

The experienced sales team of Oasis invites you for a visit to learn about this new gem on the beach.

The site tour will take you up in the complex where you will enjoy spectacular views of the ocean and beach as well as a wonderful view of Oranjestad where the cruise ships are docked. The views from the rooftop terrace are stunning to say the least. The Oasis sales team is ready to assist you.



# GEOX celebrates Mother's Day

Oranjestad - Geox Aruba is celebrating Mother's Day all day on Saturday, May 9th. The trendy, Italian shoe store at the Renaissance Mall in Oranjestad, delivered over 1,000 gift certificates to home mailboxes around Aruba this week. These certificates are all redeemable at the store, as discounts against purchases. In addition to that the store will be celebrating Mom's special day by serving Bailey's Irish Crème frappe drinks to shoppers, to live music and entertainment all day. Geox is a new concept shoe store in the mall and it had shoppers

knocking on its doors even before completing the setup, they were all asking to make purchases even before the store-sign was up. The popular Italian brand, enjoys a dedicated following in the USA and Europe, and now also in Aruba. The Geox genesis goes back to the '90s during a business trip to Reno Nevada to promote the family wine business at a trade fair Italian businessman Mario Polegato decided to go for hike in the mountains. Soon he became irritated by his overheating feet, baking inside his rubber-soled shoes, and in a

flash of inspiration the 'shoes that breathe' were born as he punctured holes in the soles to let air in and excess heat escape. Polegato knew from the beginning that the idea would be revolutionary and that it would change the way people think about their shoes. Polegato went home to Italy and patented the technology according to which

outsoles are perforated in the forefoot area where most sweat glands are located. The micro-porous membrane he designed features holes smaller than water molecules, but larger than vapor molecules. The membrane is inserted inside the sole to allow on-going ventilation, preventing water and debris from coming anywhere near feet. The fruit of Polegato's flash inspiration is a comfortable line of footwear especially suited for active feet and for anyone working on his/her feet, standing, or walking for an extended period of time.

The benefits of having Happy Feet is enormous, resulting mostly in a happier facial expression and a general feeling of well-being, which is especially true for women who often buy shoes based on aesthetics, sacrificing comfort. With Geox, no sacrifices are required, the shoes are beautiful, stylish, well made and durable. Geox, hailing from Italy, has been in the US market since 2004 and enjoys in general great popularity on an international level. To admire the amazing collection for men, women and children, visit the Geox Store at Renaissance Mall; the shoes are blessed by Italian design and

combine style and functionality. Geox Aruba, Renaissance Mall, tel.: 588 6736, [Geox@setarnet.aw](mailto:Geox@setarnet.aw)







A sign made by residents is seen at an intersection along the route fire crews use to head into the burn area of the Jesusita wildfire in Santa Barbara, Calif., Sunday, May 10, 2009.

Associated Press

## U.S., Costa Rica swine flu deaths reported

MARIANELA JIMENEZ

Associated Press Writers

SEATTLE (AP) — The number of swine flu-related deaths outside Mexico has inched up to five with the U.S. reporting its third fatality and Costa Rica its first, both involving men who also had underlying illnesses.

The number of confirmed cases of the infection in the U.S. has risen to 2,532 in 44 states, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reported Sunday.

Washington state health officials said the victim there was a man in his 30s who had underlying heart conditions and viral pneumonia when he died Thursday from what appeared to be complications from swine flu. The state Department of Health said in a statement Saturday that swine flu was considered a factor in his death.

“We’re working with local and federal partners to track this outbreak,” said Washington State Secretary of Health Mary Selecky.

The man was not further identified. He began showing symptoms on April 30, and was treated with anti-viral medication.



In this Sunday, April 26, 2009 file photo, Washington Gov. Chris Gregoire, right is interviewed by Jennifer Huntley, in Olympia, Wash. Washington state health officials say a man in his 30s is the first person in the state to die from what appears to be complications of swine flu. “This death is tragic. Our thoughts are with all those affected by this man’s passing,” said Governor Chris Gregoire. “It’s a sobering reminder that influenza is serious, and can be fatal.”

Associated Press

Dr. Gary Goldbaum, Snohomish Health District medical director, said medical officials hadn’t been able to isolate any “risk factors” for the man to identify where he might have been exposed.

The death of a 53-year-old man in Costa Rica on Saturday was the

first involving swine flu outside North America. He also suffered from diabetes and chronic lung disease, the Health Ministry said.

Continued from page 3

## National Guard troops to aid flood victims in WVa.

By BRIAN FARKAS



Flood damaged mobile homes are shown along Gilbert creek Sunday, May 10, 2009 in Gilbert, W.Va. Floodwaters have closed roads and damaged hundreds of structures.

Associated Press

Associated Press Writer

GILBERT, W.Va. — The National Guard is helping residents in West Virginia’s southern coalfields recover from weekend flooding that destroyed at least 300 buildings, knocked out power and caused mudslides that flushed trash, debris and at least one mobile home downstream.

Gov. Joe Machin activated 300 Guard troops Sunday on top of the 30 he called up a day before when he declared a state of emergency for five counties, said Division of Homeland Security

and Emergency Management spokesman Robert Jelacic.

Emergency crews, residents and business owners — some covered in mud — assessed the damage in Gilbert and used shovels to clean up after downpours dumped several inches of rain Friday and Saturday. On the road leading to the town of about 400 people, a mobile home broke loose Saturday and floated a quarter-mile before it was split in half by a poplar tree.

Continued on page 6

## Concerns white phosphorus used in U.S.-Taliban battle

JASON STRAZIUSO

Associated Press Writers

KABUL (AP) — Doctors voiced concern over “unusual” burns on Afghan villagers wounded in an already controversial U.S.-Taliban battle, and the country’s top human rights groups said Sunday it is investigating the possibility white phosphorus was used.

The American military denied using the incendiary in the battle in Farah province — which President Hamid Karzai has said killed 125 to 130 civilians — but left open the possibility that Taliban militants did. The U.S. says Taliban fighters have used white phosphorus, a spontaneously flammable material that leaves severe chemical burns on flesh, at least four times the last two years.

Continued on page 9



# Cheney backs Limbaugh over Powell over GOP future



This photo provided by CBS shows former Vice President Dick Cheney appearing on the CBS news show "Face the Nation," Sunday May 10, 2009, in Washington. Associated Press

WASHINGTON(AP)—Former Vice President Dick Cheney may have left the government, but he hasn't stopped fighting the intense political battle over the future of the struggling Republican Party. Cheney made clear Sunday which side he's on, saying he'd rather follow firebrand archconservative broadcaster Rush Limbaugh than moderate former Secretary of State Colin Powell. Cheney appeared to write his one-time colleague Powell out

of the struggling party and add to infighting among the once-dominant Republicans. Powell has said the Republicans need to be more inclusive or risk becoming irrelevant. Asked about recent verbal broadsides between Limbaugh and Powell, Cheney said, "If I had to choose in terms of being a Republican, I'd go with Rush Limbaugh. My take on it was Colin had already left the party. I didn't know he was still a Republican." Powell, who was secretary

of state under President George W. Bush and held the top U.S. military post under President George H.W. Bush, endorsed Democrat Barack Obama for president last year. Nonetheless, since the election he has described himself as a Republican and a right-of-center conservative, though "not as right as others would like."

Cheney, citing Powell's backing of Obama over Republican nominee Sen. John McCain, said, "I assumed that that is some indication of his loyalty and his interests."

Cheney's remarks on CBS' "Face the Nation" were the latest step in his slow-motion estrangement from Powell since the two worked closely together to manage the Persian Gulf war in 1991 — Powell as the Army general who was chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff and Cheney as defense secretary for the elder Bush.

Under the younger Bush, Powell initially backed action against Iraq's Saddam Hussein and delivered a famous U.N. speech laying out the U.S. case. But Powell and Cheney increasingly parted ways over the Bush administration's policies on the

war and terrorism, with Cheney usually prevailing. Powell left the administration after Bush's first term.

Wading into the debate over the Republicans' future, Cheney embraced efforts to expand the party by ex-Govs. Jeb Bush of Florida and Mitt Romney of Massachusetts and the House of Representatives' No. 2 Republican, Rep. Eric Cantor. He called efforts by George W. Bush's brother Jeb, along with Cantor and Romney, as "a good thing to do," but set a limit on how far the party should go.

"The suggestion our Democratic friends always make is somehow if you Republicans were just more like Democrats, you'd win elections," Cheney said. "Well, I don't buy that. We win elections when we have good solid conservative principles to run upon."

Powell has argued the Republican Party needs to move toward the center and reach out to growing black, Hispanic and Asian communities, but instead has been shrinking because it hasn't changed as the country changed in the face of economic distress. "Americans are looking for more government in their life, not less," Powell said last

week.

For months, Powell has urged the party to turn away from the acid-tongued Limbaugh. "I think what Rush does as an entertainer diminishes the party and intrudes or inserts into our public life a kind of nastiness that we would be better to do without," Powell said.

"Colin Powell is just another liberal," Limbaugh retorted. "What Colin Powell needs to do is close the loop and become a Democrat." Limbaugh said Powell is "just mad at me because I'm the one person in the country that had the guts to explain his endorsement of Obama. It was purely and solely based on race." Both Powell and Obama are black.

On other topics on the CBS interview, Cheney:

—said transferring suspected terrorists from the military prison at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, to the United States would be a bad idea that would enlarge their legal rights. Obama's national security adviser, retired Marine Gen. James Jones, told ABC's "This Week" the White House isn't going to do that if it would make Americans less safe.

—reiterated his belief the U.S. has become more vulnerable to a potential terrorist attack since the Obama administration renounced harsh interrogation tactics such as waterboarding, which simulates drowning, that Cheney said provided good intelligence. Jones said he didn't believe the nation was at greater risk and that even some in the Bush administration disagreed with Cheney on that score.

—renewed his call for the administration to release two CIA memos he said list successes derived from those interrogations, including "attack planning that was under way and how it was stopped." The Obama administration is reviewing Cheney's request. Obama has said the memos are not so clear-cut and do not address whether the information could have been obtained without such methods.

—said he has been speaking out about the Obama administration although George W. Bush remains silent, because if he didn't, "then the critics have free run, and there isn't anybody there on the other side to tell the truth."



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## U.S. prof wanted in killings found dead in Georgia woods

**KATE BRUMBACK**  
Associated Press Writer  
**ATHENS, Georgia (AP)** — Cadaver dogs found the body of a wanted professor “beneath the earth” in the north Georgia woods, two weeks after police say he shot his wife and two other people to death outside a community theater, then vanished. Searchers on Saturday found two guns near the body of marketing professor George Zinkhan, 57, but police would not say how he died. They did say it appears he buried himself in brush and dirt. “A person who is not accustomed to the woods would never have found the body,” said Athens-Clarke County Police Chief Joseph Lumpkin. Zinkhan disappeared after the April 25 shootings near the University of Georgia, where he’d had a spotless record since arriving to teach in the Terry College of Business in the 1990s.

Bulletins were issued nationwide and authorities kept watch on airports in case he tried to flee to Amsterdam, where he had taught part-time at a university since 2007. Federal authorities later revealed Zinkhan had a flight to Amsterdam booked before the shootings, but the professor never showed up at the airport on the May 2 departure date. Instead, cadaver dogs found his body about 10 miles west of Athens in thick woods in Bogart, where he lived. Searchers — as many as 200 at one point — had been scouring the woods since his Jeep was found wrecked and abandoned in a ravine about a mile (1.6 kilometers) away a week ago. The guns found with him matched the description provided by people who witnessed the shootings. Neighbor Bob Covington called Saturday’s discovery “another sad chapter to the story.” Zinkhan dropped off

his children at Covington’s house after the shootings, saying there was an emergency. It was the last time anyone saw him alive. “It’s been two weeks of people being on pins and needles, every time you see a police car,” Covington said. “I think this will ease a lot of tension. People can get back to their lives and move on from this horrible tragedy.” The Georgia Bureau of Investigation crime lab confirmed later Saturday that the body was Zinkhan. Reached by phone at her home in Baltimore, his mother, Mary, said she was aware he’d been found. “I’ve heard that news,” she said. “I have nothing to say about it.” Police said Zinkhan argued with his wife, Marie Bruce, 47, outside a reunion for the Town & Gown Players, a local theater group. Bruce was a family law attorney who was serving as the group’s president.



In this Aug. 11, 2006 photo provided by the University of Georgia, George Zinkhan is seen. Athens authorities on Wednesday, May 6, 2009 released new sketches of a University of Georgia professor suspected of killing his wife and two others outside a community theater last month.  
Associated Press

Police say he walked away briefly before returning with two handguns and killing her, along with Clemson University economist and actor Tom Tanner, 40, and Ben Teague, 63, a longtime theater group volunteer who was married to a popular UGA professor. Two other people were injured by bullet fragments. Police at first said they had no motive for the shooting. The FBI said later that friends and family indicated Bruce may have been considering a divorce. Police believe their children were in Zinkhan’s Jeep during the shootings but weren’t hurt. Things were tense for a time in the quiet college town 70 miles (113 kilometers) northeast of Atlanta after school officials alerted students, faculty and staff

to be on the lookout for Zinkhan. But life on campus started to return to normal after days went by with no sign of the professor, who was fired after the shootings. UGA President Michael Adams on Saturday expressed condolences to the friends and loved ones of the victims. “Our hearts go out to each of them as they try to bring closure to and cope with the pain and sorrow these losses of life have caused them,” he said. “May they ultimately find healing and peace.”

### Swine flu

Continued from front page

Most of the victims in Mexico, the center of the outbreak where 48 people with swine flu have died, have been adults aged 20 to 49, and many had no reported complicating factors. Previously, U.S. authorities reported swine flu deaths of a toddler with a heart defect and a woman with rheumatoid arthritis, and Canadian officials said the woman who died there also had other health problems but gave no details.

Mexico, which raised its count of confirmed cases to 1,626 based on tests of earlier patients, has been gradually lifting a nationwide shutdown of schools, businesses, churches and soccer stadiums. But an upswing in suspected — though not confirmed — cases in parts of Mexico prompted authorities in at least six of the country’s 31 states to delay plans to let primary school students return to class Monday after a two-week break.

“It has been very stable ... except for those states,” Health Department spokesman Carlos Olmos said, referring to states in central and southern Mexico. Mexican health authorities released a breakdown of the first 45 of the country’s 48 flu deaths that showed that 84 percent of the victims were between the ages of 20 and 54. Only 2.2 percent were immune-depressed, and none had a history of respiratory disease.





# AP source: \$2 trillion offered in health savings

PHILIP ELLIOTT

Associated Press Writers

WASHINGTON (AP) —

President Barack Obama's plan to provide medical insurance for all Americans took a big step toward becoming reality Sunday after leaders of the health care industry offered \$2 trillion in spending reductions over 10 years to help pay for the program.

Hospitals, insurance companies, drug makers and doctors planned to tell Obama on Monday they'll voluntarily slow their rate increases in coming years in a move that government economists say would create breathing room to help provide health insurance to an estimated 50 million Americans who now go without it. The United States, unlike other developed countries, does not have universal health care.

With this move, Obama picks up key private-sector allies that fought former President Bill Clinton's effort to overhaul health care. Although the offer from the industry groups doesn't resolve thorny details of a new health care system, it does offer the prospect of freeing a large chunk of money to help pay for coverage. And it puts the private-sector groups in a good position to influence the bill Congress is writing.

Six major groups plan to deliver a letter to Obama and pledge to cut the growth rate for health care by 1.5 percentage points each year, senior administration officials said Sunday. They spoke on the condition of anonymity in order to sketch the offer before full details are revealed at a White House event scheduled for Monday.

Obama has offered an outline for overhauling the health care system, and he wants Congress to work out the details and pass legislation this year. His plan would build on the current system in which employers, government and individuals share responsibility for paying the cost and care is delivered privately. The government would play a stronger role by subsidizing coverage for many more people and



**In this April 2, 2009 file photo, Senate Finance Committee Chairman Sen. Max Baucus, D-Mont., left, and the committee's ranking Republican Sen. Charles Grassley, R-Iowa, center, stand with then-Health and Human Services Secretary-designate, Kansas Gov. Kathleen Sebelius, on Capitol Hill in Washington prior to the start of the committee's confirmation hearing for Sebelius. Costs are emerging as the biggest obstacle for President Barack Obama's ambitious plan to provide health insurance for everybody.**

Associated Press

spelling out stronger consumer protections.

"We cannot continue down the same dangerous road we've been traveling for so many years, with costs that are out of control, because reform is not a luxury that can be postponed, but a necessity that cannot wait," Obama said in prepared remarks the White House released Sunday. "That is why these groups are voluntarily coming together to make an unprecedented commitment."

The industry groups are trying to get on the administration bandwagon for expanded coverage now in the hope they can steer Congress away from legislation that would restrict their profitability in future years.

Insurers, for example, want to avoid the creation of a government health plan that would directly compete with them to enroll middle-class workers and their families. Drug makers worry that in the future, new medications might have to pass a cost-benefit test before they can win approval. And hospitals and doctors are concerned the government could dictate what they get paid to care for any patient, not only the elderly and the

poor.

Obama has courted industry and provider groups, inviting their representatives to the White House. There's a sense among some of the groups that now may be the best time to act before public opinion, fueled by anger over costs, turns against them.

It's unclear whether the proposed savings will prove decisive in pushing a health care overhaul through Congress. There's no detail on how the savings pledge would be enforced. And, critically, the promised savings in private health care costs would accrue to society as a whole, not just the federal government. That's a crucial distinction because specific federal savings are needed to help pay for the cost of expanding coverage.

Indeed, costs have emerged as the most serious obstacle to Obama's plan. The estimated federal costs range from \$1.2 trillion to \$1.5 trillion over 10 years, and so far Obama has only spelled out how to get about half of that. Administration officials would not say Sunday how much they think Obama's plan will ultimately cost, but they indicated they were confident it can be paid for.

A reduction of 1.5 percentage points a year in the rate of increase in costs may not sound like much, but administration officials said it amounts to slowing the current 7 percent annual increase in costs by about one-fifth. That's significant when health care spending keeps running far ahead of inflation year after year.

They estimated, for instance, that five years from now, such private cost curbs could save a family of four an average of \$2,500 a year in health care costs.

Administration officials said they didn't expect all the saving strategies to be announced Monday, nor did they have access to specifics on how the groups reached their estimates and analysis. But the initial reaction was positive.

"While serious questions remain about the details, AARP believes the agreement of providers to slow the skyrocketing cost of health care is critical for the health reform we are all working toward," said John Rother, policy director for the seniors' lobby. "Reducing the skyrocketing cost of health care is the only way to create

a health care system that works for all Americans; after all, what good is access to a system that we can't afford?"

Ron Pollack, director of Families USA, a liberal group that supports coverage for all, said the health insurance industry came up with the target of a 1.5-percentage-point reduction. Karen Ignagni, president of the insurers trade group, America's Health Insurance Plans, took the idea to other major interest groups, said Pollack, who was familiar with the talks among the industry groups.

"If these cost savings are truly achievable, this may be the most significant development on the road to health care reform," said Pollack. "It would cut costs for families and businesses and enable subsidies to be offered so everyone has access to quality, affordable health care."

The groups include the American Medical Association, the American Hospital Association, the Service Employees International Union, the California Hospital Association and the Greater New York Hospital Association, which represents facilities in four states.

Obama's plan envisions that people would be able to keep the coverage they now have. Those working for big companies probably would not see major changes.

But the self-employed and those working for small businesses would be able to get coverage through a new kind of insurance purchasing pool. Called an "exchange," the pool would offer stable rates and predictable benefits. Plans in the exchange wouldn't be able to deny coverage to those who are sick and would have to follow other new consumer protection rules.

Lawmakers in Congress are generally following Obama's outline, but the Senate plan is likely to go further by requiring all Americans to carry health insurance, much as states now require motorists to carry auto coverage. Democrats hope to get legislation to the floor this summer.



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# Weather puts wet blanket on destructive wildfire

AMY TAXIN

Associated Press Writer

SANTA BARBARA, California (AP) — A blanket of damp, cool ocean air draped the coast Sunday morning, keeping a lid on a destructive wildfire and allowing some of the thousands of evacuees to return and see if their homes had survived.

Returnees were warned they should remain alert in case conditions worsen again, but the hot, dry wind that stoked the blaze was not expected to return for at least another day. The blaze that charred an area of more than 13 square miles was 40 percent contained late Saturday after the moist air flowed in from the Pacific Ocean, blocking the dry, daily wind known as the "sundowner."

By Sunday morning, the temperature at Santa Barbara was just 56 degrees and humidity was 86 percent, the National Weather Service said. Sunday's forecast was for a high around 75 degrees, cooler than the weather that prevailed last week.

Richard Abrams, spokesman for Santa Barbara emergency operations center, said the dramatically cooler, damper weather allowed firefighters to make steady progress through the night on constructing a containment line to encircle the fire and prevent flames from spreading.

"It's a stable situation on the line," he said Sunday morning. "They're filling in that line."

The weather service had dropped its fire weather

warnings Saturday and predicted that clouds and fog would continue through Monday morning. It said the sundowner wind blowing down from the Santa Ynez range wouldn't return before Monday night, and then only weakly to moderately.

Fire officials said the blaze destroyed 31 homes and two detached garages, and damaged 47 other homes, saying an earlier estimate that 80 buildings were destroyed was incorrect.

Cheers erupted at an evacuation center when Santa Barbara County Sheriff Bill Brown announced Saturday that mandatory evacuation orders for most areas were being downgraded to evacuation warnings, meaning residents could return but would have to remain alert.

"It's easy on a day like today to look around and go 'Wow, you know, we've got this thing beat,'" Joe Waterman, the overall fire commander from the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection, said Saturday evening. "We don't have this thing beat yet."

Water-dropping helicopters continued to shuttle between

reservoirs and hot spots but flames were not apparent and the huge plumes of smoke that loomed over the city for days had vanished.

The blaze isn't expected to be fully contained until Wednesday. Among the first to return were Jonathan Kenny, 44, and his wife, Susan Kim, 42, who found their home covered with ash but still standing near blackened hillsides. "I feel like we dodged a bullet on this one," said Kenny, who watered plants and fed goldfish in a backyard pond. But a short distance away up a narrow canyon road, homes were gutted and cars were burned-out wrecks. More than 30,000 people had been under mandatory evacuation orders since the fire erupted Tuesday just above Santa Barbara on the face of the steep Santa Ynez Mountains. An additional 23,000 had been on evacuation standby.

By Saturday evening, well over half of the those residents were back in their homes, Santa Barbara County sheriff's Commander Darin Fotheringham said.

The fire was driven into outlying residential areas Wednesday by the notorious



**A home sits unscathed surrounded by land burned in the Jesusita wildfire in Santa Barbara, Calif., Sunday, May 10, 2009.**

Associated Press

sundowner wind, which sweeps down the face of the mountains late in the day. The wind returned and fanned the flames again late Thursday and into early Friday.

After that gusty onslaught, the fire was active along a five-mile-long front Friday just above Santa Barbara, west toward neighboring Goleta and east toward the community of Montecito.

However, the sundowner

failed to materialize Friday night, and instead the normal flow of air from the Pacific Ocean delivered the dense, moist marine layer that didn't let the sun peek through until nearly midday.

Resident Eric Hall, 59, said he believed the worst was over when he felt the mist sweep in off the ocean.

"The weather is cooperating," Hall said as he had ash cleaned off his daughter's car at a car wash.

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# Weather looks great for Monday launch to Hubble

MARCIA DUNN  
Associated Press Writer  
CAPE CANAVERAL, Florida (AP) — With a forecast of near-perfect weather, NASA's Hubble Space Telescope scientists and managers were euphoric as they awaited Monday's planned launch of shuttle Atlantis on the final trip to the orbiting observatory. The anticipation was all the greater given all the years of mission delays. "To be within one day of it is remarkable, unbelievable and I have to persuade myself I'm not dreaming," senior project scientist David Leckrone said Sunday.

"But I walk outside and I see that beautiful bird on the pad (Atlantis) and I see the gorgeous weather, and we're going to get off tomorrow and it's going to go splendidly. I just feel it." Earlier Sunday, meteorologists issued an improved forecast, putting the odds of good launching weather at 90 percent, about as good as it gets. Only a slight chance of rain is expected at the emergency landing site in Spain.



Space shuttles Atlantis, left, and Endeavour are shown on their launch pads at Kennedy Space Center in Cape Canaveral, Fla., Sunday, May 10, 2009. Endeavour is on standby in case Atlantis is damaged during the flight and its seven astronauts need to be rescued. Associated Press

Atlantis is poised to blast off with seven astronauts just after 2 p.m. EDT.

The 19-year-old Hubble needs new batteries, gyroscopes, cameras and other equipment that NASA hopes will keep the telescope operating — at a higher than ever scientific level — for another five to 10

years. Hubble has been left unattended for seven years. It's the longest gap ever between servicing missions, created in large part by the 2003 Columbia disaster. A telescope breakdown last fall led to the most recent seven-month delay. "We have seven years of

accumulated maintenance work to do," Hubble program manager Preston Burch said. "So you can imagine if you had a car and you were driving it every day for seven years and never took it into the shop. You would have quite a list of things to do on it." The 11-day mission is packed and includes unprecedented

camera repairs. In all, five spacewalks are planned. Because this is the final visit to Hubble, "we're going for broke," Leckrone told reporters.

This last repair mission was considered so dangerous in the wake of the Columbia accident that it was canceled in 2004. NASA reinstated it two years later after coming up with shuttle repair techniques and an immediate rescue plan involving a second shuttle, the Endeavour.

Endeavour is at the other launch pad, just a week from rushing to the Atlantis crew's rescue, if necessary. All of NASA's other shuttle missions in recent years have been to the international space station, where astronauts could await a rescue. The Atlantis astronauts will be unable to get to the station, which is in a different orbit than Hubble. That's why Endeavour needs to be ready to blast off as soon as possible if Atlantis suffers severe damage during launch or by a micrometeoroid in orbit.



Residents look at a car in Gilbert Creek Sunday, May 10, 2009 in Baisden, W.Va. The area has been hit hard by rain in the past few weeks resulting in flash floods. The National Guard is helping residents in West Virginia's southern coalfields recover from weekend flooding that destroyed at least 300 buildings, knocked out power and caused mudslides that flushed trash, debris and at least one mobile home downstream. Associated Press

"I will never feel safe here again anytime it rains," said resident Jo Johnson. "It was floating down the street like someone was driving it," said her husband, Milton Johnson, who was laid off last week from Massey Energy's Superior surface mine.

Now, this. Johnson, 56, said he was awakened about 2:15 a.m. Saturday and within an hour, the couple and his 79-year-old mother, whose trailer next door was uprooted by rushing floodwaters, were forced to seek shelter on a nearby

## National guard

Continued from front page

hillside. Johnson, whose home has flood insurance, said he's lived in Gilbert his entire life and this is the first time he's been flooded.

No injuries have been reported and seven miners trapped underground because of high water were able to walk out of the Mountaineer Alma mine near Wharncliffe on Sunday morning, Jelacic said.

The road in front of Gilbert Furniture was stacked high Sunday with lounge chairs, couches and refrigerators. Nineteen years ago, the store's former location next door was flooded by nearby Gilbert Creek. The new building was built 3 feet higher.

It didn't matter. The force of the floodwaters "blew the doors off their hinges," said Ricky Hatfield, who has worked 30 years at the store his parents own.

The high water mark is 2 feet up the wall and the store's mud-stained contents are a total loss. But Hatfield said the family had flood insurance and plans to rebuild the store that has been around for 65 years because business has been good.

Over at Tattoo Joe's, owner Joe Hinkle didn't have flood insurance for the business he's run for seven years.

"I can't salvage anything at all," Hinkle said. "It breaks your heart, you know? You work for years and in one night, it's gone." Gilbert Mayor Vivian Livingood estimated 80 percent of the town's businesses were affected by high water. Donations of money, supplies and food were pouring into the town, Livingood said.

She said residents were advised to boil their tap water first before drinking because mud got into the water system, although the water plant is working. Logan, McDowell,

Mingo, Raleigh and Wyoming counties were under the state of emergency. Assessments show Mingo County was the hardest hit by flooding, with about 300 structures destroyed, 1,000 with major damage and 2,000 with minor damage. Wyoming County had 150 structures with major damage.

Manchin and U.S. Rep. Nick Rahall, D-W.Va., were expected to tour the region Sunday. The National Weather Service in Charleston predicted a 20 percent chance of rain into Monday.

In the Midwest, about 98,000 customers in Illinois and Missouri were still without electricity, days after a wave of deadly storms socked the region. The storms were blamed for at least seven deaths in Illinois, Missouri, Kentucky and Kansas. Governors of Kentucky, West Virginia and Illinois declared emergencies or disasters in several counties.



# Pelosi wants U.S. to strengthen intelligence in Iraq

QASSIM ABDUL-ZAHRA  
Associated Press Writer

BAGHDAD (AP) — U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi called Sunday for greater intelligence cooperation between the U.S. and Iraq as the American military moves to withdraw its forces from the country by 2012.

Pelosi told reporters she had discussed intelligence sharing with Iraqi lawmakers after she arrived for a one-day visit. She was accompanied by Rep. Rush Holt, a New Jersey Democrat who chairs a House committee that oversees U.S. intelligence operations.

“If we are going to have a diminished physical military presence, we have to have a strong intelligence presence,” Pelosi said.

Pelosi, a California Democrat and strong critic of the U.S.-led 2003 invasion, did not elaborate.

On Tuesday, however, Prime Minister Nouri al-Maliki told The Associated Press that Iraqi forces were ready to take over their own security but needed help gathering intelligence to target insurgents and prevent attacks.

The U.S. is also keen to ensure that al-Qaida in Iraq and other threat groups do not reconstitute their ranks as the



**In this handout photo released by the U.S. military, U.S. House speaker Nancy Pelosi, right, talks with U.S. army officers at Sather Air Base in Baghdad, Iraq, Sunday, May 10, 2009. Pelosi called Sunday for greater intelligence cooperation between the U.S. and Iraq as the American military moves to withdraw its forces from the country by 2012.**

Associated Press

U.S. draws down ahead of the 2012 deadline.

The former U.S. commander in Iraq, Gen. David Petraeus, told Fox News Sunday that he expected al-Qaida “will continue to try to reestablish itself in Iraq” although the terror group’s senior leadership “appears to have shifted away somewhat” from operations here.

Those threat groups also include Shiite extremists

which the U.S. believes are funded and supported by Iran, Iraq’s neighbor to the east. Tehran denies the charge.

President Barack Obama has called for removing all U.S. combat troops from Iraq by September of next year.

Appearing with Pelosi, Iraq’s newly elected parliament speaker, Ayad al-Samarraie, said the two sides also discussed the implementation of the various agreements

governing the presence of American troops and their eventual withdrawal.

“We are aware that there are problems, but both the Iraqi government and parliament are trying to make use of the partnership between us and the United States in order to solve problems,” al-Samarraie said.

Pelosi opposed the 2007 increase in U.S. troops which has been widely credited with

contributing to a substantial reduction of violence in much of country in the past two years.

She has also urged the Iraqi government to make greater efforts at political reconciliation among Shiites, Sunnis and Kurds.

Government spokesman Ali al-Dabbagh said that the prime minister did not discuss military affairs with Pelosi during their meeting, but rather focused on economic relations — as well as the issue of reparations.

In particular, al-Maliki asked for help with fending off demands from Iraq’s neighbors for reparations dating back to Saddam Hussein’s regime, the spokesman said.

“Al-Maliki requested the United States protect Iraqi funds and put an end to the demands of other countries which feel they were harmed during the two Gulf wars of the former regime,” al-Dabbagh added.

Kuwait, which is also a close U.S. partner, still claims billions of dollars in war reparations from Iraq dating from the 1990 invasion and has refused appeals by Baghdad to reduce their demands and forgive about \$15 billion in Iraqi debt.

## Spain appeals ruling to free seven pirate suspects

HAROLD HECKLE

Associated Press Writer

MADRID (AP)—The Spanish government said Sunday it was appealing a National Court decision to free seven Somali youths detained by Spain’s navy on suspicion of piracy in the Gulf of Aden.

The appeal challenged a ruling issued Friday by Judge Fernando Andreu to release the youths instead of bringing them to his Madrid court for questioning, the Defense Ministry said.

The ministry said the seven suspects should be tried in Kenya, after the country signed a deal with the European Union in March to prosecute piracy suspects amid a surge in hijackings in lawless waters off the Horn

of Africa.

The seven youths — described as “15-year-old boys” by Spanish attorney general spokesman Fernando Noya — were detained Wednesday after being rescued from their capsized boat off Somalia.

The small boat overturned during an alleged hijack attempt on a Panamanian-flagged freighter, according to the Spanish navy supply ship that picked up the seven suspects.

Andreu refused to surrender the suspects to Kenya, arguing that such a move bypassed Spanish extradition laws and that the EU accord could not be applied to detainees awaiting legal proceedings in Spain.



**In this photo taken May 6, 2009, released by the Spanish Ministry of Defense, Spanish sailors detain an alleged Somali pirate in the Gulf of Aden. A Spanish navy supply ship participating in an EU anti-piracy flotilla off Somalia rescued the seven alleged pirates after their small boat flipped over while they were allegedly trying to hijack a Panamanian-flagged freighter. Spain abruptly backtracked Friday May 8 on the idea of bringing seven skinny, bedraggled young Somalis to Madrid for questioning on suspicion of piracy.**  
Associated Press



# Curfew's lift lets more flee Pakistani Swat valley

MINGORA, Pakistan (AP) — Tens of thousands of civilians, many on foot or donkey-led carts, took advantage of a lifted curfew to flee Pakistan's embattled Swat Valley on Sunday, while the army said it had killed 400 to 500 militants in its battle against the Taliban.

The hemorrhaging of residents from a scenic valley that once attracted hordes of tourists threatened to greatly exacerbate an existing internal refugee crisis for a nuclear-armed nation already facing economic, political and other woes.

The army offensive has garnered praise from the U.S., which wants Pakistan to root out havens on its soil where Taliban militants can plan attacks on American and NATO forces across the border in Afghanistan. In an interview aired Sunday, Pakistan's president urged international support for the fight and insisted the army had enough troops in the northwest to handle the threat.

As they left Swat's main town of Mingora, some residents cursed the situation and condemned the Taliban, while others blamed Pakistani leaders for bowing to the West. "Show our picture to your master America and get money from him," some taunted. The desperate Swat residents were trying to leave any way they could — on motorbikes, animal-pulled carts, rickshaws or foot. A ban on civilian vehicles entering the valley complicated the exodus for those without cars. Some chided an Associated Press reporter for slowing them down by asking questions.

"We are going out only with our clothes and a few things to eat on the long journey," said Rehmat Alam, a 40-year-old medical technician walking out of Mingora with 18 other relatives. "We just got out relying on God because there is no one else to help us."

Fighter jets and helicopter gunships have pounded Swat and

surrounding districts over the past few days after Taliban fighters in the valley moved out and tried to impose their reign in other areas, including a stretch just 60 miles from the capital, Islamabad.

The army's nine-hour suspension of the curfew Sunday could signal a more intense operation now that more civilians have left. Army spokesman Maj. Gen. Athar Abbas said 400 to 500 militants had been killed since the operation's launch last week. Much of the latest fighting occurred along the periphery of Swat and Shangla, a neighboring district, he said, and at least 140 bodies of alleged militants were discovered at a militant training camp in that area.

Reports that militants from Swat had filtered into Shangla came out well before the latest operation, but it also was possible that more insurgents were headed to that district to escape the bombardments in the valley.

In Swat, Mingora was relatively



**A local resident pushes a cart with his mother as they flee from Mingora, the main town of Pakistan's troubled Swat Valley, Sunday, May 10, 2009. Thousands of fearful civilians, many on foot or donkey-pulled carts, streamed out of a conflict-ridden Pakistani valley Sunday as authorities briefly lifted a curfew. The army said it had killed scores of militants in the latest fighting.**

Associated Press

calm, though an army statement said 50 to 60 militants died Sunday in various parts of the valley. Taliban fighters remained visible in Mingora.

Two soldiers also died in the latest fighting, including one who succumbed to injuries suffered Friday, the army said. The death tolls could not be confirmed independently, and some of the army's figures could not immediately be reconciled.

In the northwest district of Mardan, government official Khalid Umerzai said more than 100,000 displaced Pakistanis were expected Sunday, on top of 252,000 already there.

"Vehicles loaded with people are coming down bumper-to-bumper from Swat, and we are expecting a huge crowd of people and organizing two more relief camps in Mardan and Takhtbai," Umerzai said.

Before the latest operation, some 550,000 people were registered as displaced from past offensives in other parts of Pakistan's northwest, including the semi-autonomous tribal belt, according to the United Nations.

The international aid agency World Vision said its relief workers were finding "intolerable" conditions at some camps due to soaring temperatures, overcrowding, inadequate toilets and a lack of electricity.

"Despite the coordinated efforts of the Pakistani authorities, World Vision and other aid agencies on the ground, we may not be able to meet the most basic needs of the refugees as quickly as they are arriving in the camps

if it continues at this pace," said Jeff Hall, an official with the aid group.

Many in the northwest have little faith in the weak civilian government's ability to help them, a challenge to Pakistan's leaders because disillusioned refugees could prove fertile recruiting ground for the Taliban. Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani has directed millions of dollars to help the residents of the region.

In his interview with NBC's "Meet the Press," Pakistani President Asif Ali Zardari brushed aside concerns that Pakistan's armed forces are still too focused on a potential threat from longtime rival India. He said the resources devoted to the fight against the Taliban — 135,000 troops in the northwest, he estimated — were "sufficient."

"It's a war of our existence," Zardari said.

Pakistan launched the full-scale offensive Thursday to halt the spread of Taliban, who began moving into districts neighboring Swat despite a much-criticized peace deal in which Pakistani agreed to impose Islamic law in the valley and surrounding areas. Swat lies near the Afghan border as well as the wild Pakistani tribal areas, where al-Qaida and the Taliban have strongholds and where U.S. officials believe al-Qaida chief Osama bin Laden may be hiding.

The army says 12,000 to 15,000 troops in Swat face 4,000 to 5,000 militants, including small numbers of foreigners and hardened fighters from the South Waziristan tribal region.

## Jamaica cops threaten strike to demand pay raise

HOWARD CAMPBELL  
Associated Press Writer  
KINGSTON, Jamaica (AP) — Leaders of Jamaica's rank-and-file police union have hinted that officers may walk off the job this week to demand pay raises, but Prime Minister Bruce Golding said Sunday his government will not be "bullied" by threats of a work stoppage.

Jamaica's police federation, which represents nearly 8,000 constables and inspectors, announced Friday that they might call for a work stoppage in coming days if Golding's government does not approve a wage increase amid an ongoing freeze on public sector salaries.

But Golding indicated soldiers and police reserves would fan out across Jamaica, manning stations, the courts and violence-wracked communities, if a police strike is called for. He said his administration is facing tough challenges and the union should call for negotiations in a more diplomatic way.

"This administration will not

be bullied," Golding said. "This government is not going to be cowered, is not going to be yielding, and is not going to be genuflecting, simply because people believe they have a kind of power that can hold the country to ransom."

Finance Minister Audley Shaw placed a freeze on government salaries earlier this year, citing challenges of the global economic crisis. Ministry officials met with the police federation's leaders on Friday and told them that pay increases are currently impossible.

Sgt. Raymond Wilson, chairman of the police federation, did not rule out a strike following the tense meeting. He said Golding's government should not have included law enforcement in the public-sector groups subject to the wage freeze.

"We don't believe the issue has been dealt with. We will meet to discuss the way forward," Wilson told reporters.

In 2006, police across the Caribbean nation staged a three-day sickout after the



**Jamaica's Prime Minister Bruce Golding, right, enters to the opening ceremony of the 5th Summit of the Americas in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago, Friday April 17, 2009.**

Associated Press

police federation said it had failed to reach a deal with the government over a pay package. The strike ended when the government agreed to improve their salaries and benefits.



## White phosphoroos

Continued from front page

Using white phosphorus to illuminate a target or create smoke is considered legitimate under international law, but rights groups say its use over populated areas can indiscriminately burn civilians and constitutes a war crime.

Afghan doctors told The Associated Press they have treated at least 14 patients with severe burns the doctors have never seen before. The villagers were wounded during last Monday's battle in Farah province.

Allegations that white phosphorus or another chemical may have been used threatens to deepen the controversy over what Afghan officials say could be the worst case of civilian deaths since the 2001 U.S. invasion that ousted the Taliban regime.

In Kabul on Sunday, hundreds of people marched near Kabul University to protest the U.S. military's role in the deaths. Protesters carried signs denouncing the U.S. and chanted anti-American slogans.

The incident in Farah drew the condemnation of Karzai, who called for an end to airstrikes. The U.S. has said militants kept villagers captive in hopes they would die in the fighting, creating a civilian casualties controversy.

However, President Barack Obama's national security adviser said Sunday the United States would not end airstrikes. Retired Gen. James Jones refused to rule out any action because "we can't fight with one hand tied behind our back."

Along with Afghan and U.S. investigations into the battle, the Afghan Independent Human Rights Commission has been looking into concerns that white phosphorus may have been used after strange burns were reported. Nader Nadery, a commissioner in the leading rights organization, said more investigation was needed.

"Our teams have met with patients," Nadery told AP. "They are investigating the cause of the injuries and the use of white phosphorus."

White phosphorus is a spontaneously flammable material that can cause painful

chemical burns. It is used to mark targets, create smoke screens or as a weapon, and can be delivered by shells, flares or hand grenades, according to GlobalSecurity.org.

Human rights groups denounce its use for the severe burns it causes, though it is not banned by any treaty to which the United States is a signatory.

The U.S. military used white phosphorus in the battle of Fallujah in Iraq in November 2004. Israel's military used it in January against Hamas targets in Gaza.

Col. Greg Julian, the top U.S. military spokesman in Afghanistan, said the U.S. did not use white phosphorus as a weapon in last week's battle. The U.S. does use white phosphorous to illuminate the night sky, he said.

Julian noted that military officials believe that Taliban militants have used white phosphorus at least four times in Afghanistan in the past two years. "I don't know if they (militants) had it out there or not, but it's not out of the question," he said.

A spokesman for the Taliban could not be reached for comment Sunday.

The U.S. military on Saturday said that Afghan doctors in Farah told American officials the injuries seen in wounded Afghans from two villages in the province's Bala Baluk district could have resulted from hand grenades or exploding propane tanks.

Dr. Mohammad Aref Jalali, the head of the burn unit at the Herat Regional Hospital in western Afghanistan who has treated five patients wounded in the battle, described the burns as "unusual."

"I think it's the result of a chemical used in a bomb, but I'm not sure what kind of chemical. But if it was a result of a burning house — from petrol or gas cylinders — that kind of burn would look different," he said.

Gul Ahmad Ayubi, the deputy head of Farah's health department, said the province's main hospital had received 14 patients after the battle, all with burn wounds. Five patients were sent to Herat.

"There has been other airstrikes in Farah in the past. We had injuries from those battles, but this is the first time we have seen such burns on the bodies.

I'm not sure what kind of bomb it was," he said.

U.N. human rights investigators have also seen "extensive" burn wounds on victims and have raised questions about how the injuries were caused, said a U.N. official who asked not to be identified talking about internal deliberations. The U.N. has reached no conclusions about whether any chemical weapons may have been used, the official said.

Afghan officials say up to 147 people may have died in the battle in Farah, though the U.S. says that number is exaggerated.

The investigation into the Farah battle coincides with an appeal by Human Rights Watch for NATO forces to release results of an investigation into a March 14 incident in which an 8-year-old Afghan girl was burned by white phosphorus munitions in Kapisa province. The New York-based group said Saturday that white phosphorus "causes horrendous burns and should not be used in civilian areas."

In the latest violence, a double suicide bomb attack killed seven people and wounded 20 in southern Afghanistan on Sunday. The majority of casualties were police and army



**Students of Kabul University, one holding a photo showing graves of Afghan victims killed in airstrikes, shout anti-U.S. slogans during a demonstration against Monday's coalition airstrikes on Bala Baluk district of Farah province, in Kabul, Afghanistan, Sunday, May 10, 2009. The U.S. coalition blamed Taliban militants Saturday for causing what Afghan officials say are dozens of civilian deaths during a prolonged battle that included American airstrikes. The U.S. said an unspecified number of civilians died but did not take responsibility for any deaths.**

Associated Press

units responding to the initial attack, said Dawood Ahmadi, the governor's spokesman.

A roadside bomb in eastern Nangarhar province killed eight construction workers traveling on a rural road on their way to build a checkpoint for the country's border police, an official said, while a truck driver and two assistants died in a roadside bomb blast in Zabul province while transporting

goods to a U.S. base, police said.

Taliban militants have increased their attacks the last three years as the country's insurgency has turned increasingly bloody. President Barack Obama is sending 21,000 additional U.S. troops to the country to bolster the record 38,000 American forces already in the country.



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# Netanyahu to talk about Iran, peacemaking in Egypt

AMY TEIBEL

Associated Press Writer

JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu will be looking to build a coalition against Iran and exchange ideas on advancing Middle East peace negotiations when he visits Egypt Monday on his first trip to the Arab world since he took office.

Netanyahu is hoping to find some common ground with his Arab neighbors ahead of his pivotal trip to Washington later this month. Efforts are also under way to arrange a trip to Jordan later in the week.

Egypt will be looking for the Israeli leader to endorse the internationally backed idea of a Palestinian state, something he has not done so far.

Netanyahu's election has been ill-received in the Arab world because of his hard-line positions against yielding land captured in Middle East wars and his refusal to support Palestinian independence. Netanyahu hopes to redefine the regional agenda by focusing on Iran as the key threat to Mideast stability.

Egypt, a regional heavyweight, and Jordan are the only Arab countries with peace treaties with Israel. Because they, too, fear Iran's rising influence in the region, Netanyahu hopes to use them as bridgeheads for his ideas among moderate Arab states.

Both Israel and Arab moderates, including Egypt and Saudi Arabia, have expressed concern over President Barack Obama's efforts to start a dialogue with Iran.

Netanyahu's decision to meet with Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak before sitting down with Obama on May 18 demonstrates his belief that "now is the time to intensify the coordination and the cooperation between Israel and those Arab countries (that) believe in peace," an official in the prime minister's office said Sunday, speaking on condition of anonymity

because he was not authorized to discuss the meeting in advance.

"Our common goals are the desire to strengthen regional stability and to advance the Middle East peace process," the official said. "Our common threats are Iran and its regional proxies, Hezbollah in Lebanon and Hamas in Gaza."

Egyptian Foreign Ministry spokesman Hossam Zaki said his government hoped Netanyahu would lay out his plans for moving forward on the Palestinian issue.

"So far he has not come out openly and directly and said he is supportive of the two-state solution. We have called

on him to do that and we will continue to do that," Zaki told The Associated Press.

Israel, like the U.S. and many other countries, believes Iran is aggressively pursuing a nuclear weapons program. The Jewish state regards the Islamic Republic as its greatest threat, especially in light of President Mahmoud Ahmadinejad's repeated calls for Israel's annihilation. Iran says its nuclear program is designed solely to produce energy.

While the U.S. too is concerned about Iran's role in the region, it also is pressing hard for an Israeli commitment to establish a Palestinian state.



Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu convenes the weekly cabinet meeting in Jerusalem, Sunday, May 10, 2009. A private group says the Israeli government has a secret plan to surround Jerusalem's Old City with parks, trails and tourists sites in an effort to cement the Jewish state's hold on disputed Jerusalem. Associated Press

## Lawyer defends jailed U.S. reporter at Iran court



An unidentified woman, center left, speaks with Reza Saberi, center right, father of the Iranian-American journalist Roxana Saberi, who has been convicted of spying, as he leaves the court of appeal where his daughter's hearing is being held, in Tehran, Sunday, May 10, 2009. An Iranian court of appeal on Sunday will review the case against an American journalist jailed in Iran for allegedly spying for the United States, the country's official news agency said. Associated Press

NASSER KARIMI

Associated Press Writer

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — A lawyer for a jailed American journalist in Iran said Sunday he was optimistic that an appeals court will reduce her eight-year prison sentence for allegedly spying for the United States.

Roxana Saberi's lawyer talked to reporters after his 32-year-old client's five-hour closed-door appeals hearing. He said he was allowed to defend Saberi and expects the court will make its ruling in the coming days.

"I am hopeful and optimistic that there will be a remarkable change to her verdict," Abdolsamad Khorramshahi said outside the courthouse. "My colleague and I were allowed to defend our client in a favorable atmosphere. Our client also had enough

time to defend herself."

Saberi, who grew up in Fargo, North Dakota, was convicted last month after a closed-door hearing that her father said lasted only 15 minutes and her lawyer was not given time to defend her.

The case has caused tensions between the U.S. and Iran at a time when President Barack Obama has said he wants to engage America's longtime adversary. Washington has called the charges against Saberi baseless and demanded she be freed.

Iran had promised a complete review of the case on appeal and insisted Saberi would be allowed to provide a full defense. Officials have suggested that her prison term could be reduced. The court could also overturn her conviction.

Another lawyer for Saberi, Saleh Nikbakht, told The Associated Press that the journalist told the court that her travel in recent years to countries including Israel was not part of any plan against Iran.

"She said she had no particular relations with U.S. officials," Nikbakht added.

He said he asked the court to release Saberi on bail until a final decision.

Iran's judiciary spokesman Ali Reza Jamshidi said he believed "the ruling by the appeals court will be fair and based on the law," the country's official news agency reported Sunday. But he also stressed that he could not "predict if she will be acquitted or the current verdict will remain in force."

Most espionage cases in Iran are not open to the public. Saberi's father, Reza Saberi, told reporters earlier Sunday that although he accompanied his daughter to the courthouse, he was not allowed to enter the room where the hearing was being held.

Saberi moved to Iran six years ago and worked as a freelance reporter for several news outlets including National Public Radio and the British Broadcasting Corp. She had gone on a hunger strike in prison to protest her jailing but ended it earlier this month after two weeks for health reasons.

The former 1997 Miss North Dakota was arrested in late January and initially accused of working without press credentials. But an Iranian judge later leveled the far more serious charge of espionage.



# Iceland's government moves closer to joining EU

GUDJON HELGASON  
Associated Press Writer  
REYKJAVIK, Iceland  
(AP) — Iceland's new government said Sunday it will ask parliament to vote on whether the recession-hit country should start membership talks with the European Union.

Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir said a bill authorizing accession talks would be introduced when Iceland's parliament, the Althingi, resumes sitting on Friday.

"In the coming weeks the demand of the people of Iceland will be to find out what the EU has to offer to us," Sigurdardottir said. "It would not be fair for the Althingi to prevent that."

Sigurdardottir and Finance Minister Steingrimur J. Sigfusson also introduced

their new Cabinet, two weeks after their two party coalition won elections. Talks on forming a government had snagged on whether Iceland should seek to join the 27-nation EU, and potentially the euro — seen by many Icelanders as the country's best route out of financial crisis.

Sigurdardottir's Social Democratic Alliance supports EU membership, while Sigfusson's Left Green Movement opposes it.

Sigfusson acknowledged that asking the parliament to make the decision on EU membership talks, rather than putting it to a national referendum, would be difficult for many Left Greens to accept, and said the party's lawmakers should vote according to

their consciences.

Sigfusson insisted, however, that the Left Green Movement is still against joining the EU and "has in no way deviated in its policy on the matter."

A final decision on EU membership would be put to Icelanders in a referendum, the government said.

Iceland, a volcanic island of 320,000 people, has been devastated by the global financial crisis after years of having one of the world's highest standards of living. The country's banking system collapsed late last year under the weight of huge debts amassed during years of light economic regulation.

The country's currency, the krona, has plummeted, while unemployment and inflation have spiraled.



Prime Minister Johanna Sigurdardottir waves after casting her ballot in Hagaskoli, Iceland Saturday April 25 2009.  
Associated Press

Iceland has sought a \$10 billion International Monetary Fund-led bailout. The two leaders promised to work closely with the IMF on rebuilding Iceland's economy, and said their first 100 days in office would include measures to restructure the banking

system, placate foreign creditors, introduce political reform and create jobs.

The government announced Sunday divides Cabinet posts between the two coalition parties, and also includes two unaligned outside experts.



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# Sri Lanka artillery barrage kills 378, doctor says



In this handout photo released by pro-Tamil rebel linked Web site, TamilNet, a Sri Lankan ethnic Tamil man walks past a burning bus by shelling at Tiger controlled No Fire Zone in Mullivaaykaal, Sri Lanka, Sunday, May 10, 2009. An overnight artillery barrage in Sri Lanka's northern war zone killed at least 378 civilians and wounded more than 1,100, a government doctor said Sunday, calling it the bloodiest day he had seen in the army's offensive against the Tamil Tiger rebels. The rebel-linked TamilNet Web site said 2,000 civilians were feared killed and blamed the attack on Sri Lankan forces, a charge the military denied.

Associated Press

KRISHAN FRANCIS  
Associated Press Writer

COLOMBO, Sri Lanka (AP)

— An all-night artillery barrage in Sri Lanka's war zone killed at least 378 civilians and forced thousands to flee to makeshift shelters along the beach, a government doctor said Sunday.

The army and Tamil Tiger rebels blamed each other for the barrage, which the doctor said left at least 1,100 people wounded. He said it was the bloodiest day he had seen in months of fighting.

Dr. V. Shanmugarajah said many more were likely killed in the barrage, but they were buried where they fell instead of being taken to the makeshift hospital where he works in the war zone. He described the situation at the understaffed hospital as "overwhelming." "Nothing is within our control," he said. Most doctors and nurses have long since fled, he said, and even volunteers to dig graves were in short supply.

The rebel-linked TamilNet Web site said 2,000 civilians were feared dead and blamed the attack on Sri Lankan forces. The Sri Lankan military denied firing the artillery and said the rebels appeared to be firing mortar shells from one corner of the tiny area still

under their control into another section densely populated with civilians.

The rebels are "trying to use these people as their last weapon to show the world that the army is firing indiscriminately and stop this offensive," military spokesman Brig. Udaya Nanayakkara said.

Reports of the fighting are difficult to verify because the government bars journalists and aid workers from the war zone. The rebel force, which has been fighting for 25 years for a homeland for minority Tamils, is cornered on a small sliver of territory on the island's northeastern coast.

The government vowed two weeks ago to cease firing heavy weapons to avoid civilian casualties. However, medical officials in the area have reported that air strikes and artillery attacks have continued unabated, despite the presence of an estimated 50,000 ethnic Tamil civilians in the conflict zone.

In the overnight attack, Shanmugarajah said, shells flew through the air, some falling near the hospital, sending many diving into bunkers for safety.

He said at least 378 civilians were killed, and the hospital was struggling to cope with

the 1,122 wounded civilians. The government had sent medical supplies into the war zone in the past days, but a shortage of physicians, nurses and aides has made treatment difficult, he said.

"We are doing the first aid and some surgeries as quickly as we can. We are doing what is possible. The situation is overwhelming," he said.

Human Rights Watch on Saturday accused the military of repeatedly hitting hospitals in the war zone with artillery and aerial attacks that killed scores of people and said commanders involved in the attacks "may be prosecuted for war crimes."

U.N. figures compiled last month showed that nearly 6,500 civilians had been

killed early this year as the government renewed its efforts to end the war.

In recent months, government forces pushed the rebels out of the shadow state they controlled across a wide swath of the north and cornered them in the tiny spit of land the army says is just 2.4 miles long where the fighting is now concentrated.

The government has brushed off international calls for a humanitarian cease-fire, saying the beleaguered rebels would use any pause in fighting to regroup.

The rebels have been fighting since 1983 for a separate state for minority Tamils, who have suffered decades of marginalization at the hands of governments controlled by

the Sinhalese majority.

The government has accused the rebels of using civilians in the north as human shields, and Nanayakkara said the insurgents shot families who tried to escape the war zone Saturday, killing nine people. Meanwhile, pressure on reporters critical of the government's war effort has intensified.

On Sunday, Sri Lanka deported three journalists for London-based Channel 4 television news. They had been arrested the day before on charges of tarnishing the image of the security forces after they ran a report about the conditions of the war refugees and alleged sexual abuse in displacement camps, which the government denied.

## Weekend fighting in Somali capital leaves 35 dead



Islamic fighters take up positions as they fight pro-government Islamic fighters in the Somali capital, Mogadishu, Sunday, May 10, 2009. Mortars slammed into Somalia's capital including a mosque and several homes killing at least 35 people as pro-government Islamist fighters clashed with gunmen who want to topple the Western-backed government, witnesses and hospital officials said Sunday.

Associated Press

SALAD DUHUL

Associated Press Writer

MOGADISHU, Somalia (AP)

— Mortars and machine-gun fire rocked the Somali capital on Sunday, leveling homes and a mosque in renewed violence that has killed at least 35 people over the weekend as pro-government Islamist fighters clash with gunmen who want to topple the Western-backed government,

officials said.

It was some of the worst fighting in weeks in one of the most violent cities in the world, with both sides pounding Mogadishu with mortars and machine-gunfire. Residents were streaming out of the city seeking safety.

Ali Mohamed, a 20-year-old Mogadishu resident, said he was losing all hope for his nation, which has been in

chaos since the 1991 ouster of dictator Mohamed Siad Barre. Rival clans then turned on each other. And insurgents, since late 2006, have been trying to topple the weak government. The lawlessness also has allowed piracy to explode off the coast.

"The future is bleak," he said. An Associated Press reporter counted at least 15 corpses in the streets of Mogadishu on Sunday after fighting that started late Saturday. Hospital officials and witnesses in other parts of the city said another five people were killed. Later in the day, a mortar hit a mosque and a nearby home, killing 15 more people, said witness Yasir Mohamed, who counted the corpses and received minor injuries.

Another witness to the violence, Abdinasir Ali, said he recognized six corpses as members of the same family, who were killed when a mortar shell hit their house early Sunday.

Medina hospital official Dahir Mohamed Mohamud said 60 people have been admitted with injuries this weekend.



# Detained Myanmar opposition leader on IV drip

YANGON, Myanmar (AP) — Myanmar's detained opposition leader, Aung San Suu Kyi, has difficulty eating and has been taking fluids intravenously, her party said Sunday, calling for the military government to allow a doctor to see the Nobel laureate. Suu Kyi's primary physician was detained for questioning by the authorities Thursday after an American was arrested after allegedly sneaking into her closely guarded home and staying there for more than two days. Another doctor was permitted Friday to see the 63-year-old Suu Kyi, who is rarely allowed to leave the compound where she is under house arrest. But the doctor's request for a follow-up visit on Saturday was rejected, said a spokesman for Suu Kyi's National League for Democracy.

"We are worried about Daw Suu's health. Authorities should allow free access of her doctor to give Daw Suu the required medical treatment," said the spokesman, Nyan Win. "Daw" is an honorific used for older women.

Nyan Win said that according to the doctor, Suu Kyi had lost her appetite and had not eaten properly for three or four days. He did not specify her illness. Suu Kyi, whose nonviolent advocacy for democracy won her the Nobel Peace Prize, is one of the world's most prominent political prisoners, and her release has long been sought by the United Nations and many Western nations. Her party won Myanmar's last elections in 1990, but the result was not recognized by the military, which has ruled the country since 1962.

Suu Kyi's primary doctor, Tin Myo Win, was detained for questioning by the authorities Thursday evening after an American man was arrested after allegedly swimming across a lake to reach Suu Kyi's compound and sneaking inside. Tin Myo Win had gone to Suu Kyi's home earlier that day to give her a routine monthly check up but was barred from entering by the police, who increased security there after the

intrusion.

State-run media said the American confessed that he swam 1¼ miles (2 kilometers) across Inya Lake to Suu Kyi's compound and "secretly entered the house," where he stayed from Sunday night to Tuesday night. He was arrested when authorities spotted him swimming back. The U.S. Embassy — which said the man's name is John William Yettaw — has been asking the government for access to the arrested man, but communications have been complicated because Friday through Sunday were public holidays.

Suu Kyi — who has spent more than 13 of the last 19 years, including the past six, in detention without trial — is allowed virtually no visitors aside from her doctor. Her home is tightly guarded by police checkpoints and barbed-wire barricades. On infrequent occasions she is allowed to leave under tight guard to meet with fellow party leaders and visiting U.N. representatives.



In this Nov. 9, 2007 file photo released by Myanmar News Agency, Myanmar's detained pro-democracy leader Aung San Suu Kyi is seen at the state guesthouse in Yangon, Myanmar. Associated Press



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# Floods ease in Brazil, but 300,000-plus homeless



Residents row a boat on a flooded street in Pedreiras, Maranhao state, Brazil, Sunday, May 10, 2009. Across a vast swath of the country, flooding has killed 40 and forced nearly 300,000 Brazilians from their homes.

Associated Press

MARCO SIBAJA

Associated Press Writer

PEDREIRAS, Brazil (AP)

—Floodwaters receded some

in inundated towns across

northern Brazil on Sunday,

but the number of homeless

rose above 300,000 and two

people were missing after an

overloaded canoe overturned

in swift waters.

Forty deaths had been

confirmed in northern Brazil's worst flooding in decades, fed by two months of unusually heavy rains in a zone stretching from deep in the Amazon to normally arid areas near the Atlantic coast.

In Maranhao state, one of the worst affected regions, a small canoe capsized with seven people aboard on a river between the towns of Pedreiras and Trizidela do Vale. Two passengers were missing: a 54-year-old man and a 22-year-old woman.

"She knew how to swim, but it looks like the current was too strong," said Francisco Aguiar, an uncle of the missing woman.

Police officers and firefighters were searching in motorboats, said Wallace Pires, an official with Brazil's national security force.

Emergency crews struggled to clear debris from highways blocked by landslides,

seeking to open the way for desperately needed aid shipments. There have been widespread complaints that the government was too slow in delivering food and water.

"It's raining less and we were able to clear some of the highways that were blocked," Maranhao state civil defense spokesman Ivar Araujo said. "It will be easier bring help to the victims, but the situation is still a little complicated."

There were reports of scattered looting in Maranhao and of residents refusing to leave flooded homes for fear of thieves. But the gradual retreat of high water in many places boosted spirits.

"We're hoping the situation improves because the rains have not been so intense," said Maria Dorothea de Araujo, the Amazon operations manager for the aid group World Vision.

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## Experts say GM bankruptcy almost inevitable

DETROIT — For General Motors Corp., the task at hand is so difficult that experts say a Chapter 11 bankruptcy filing is all but inevitable.

To remake itself outside of court, GM must persuade bondholders to swap \$27 billion in debt for 10 percent of its risky stock. On top of that, the automaker must work out deals with its union, announce factory closures, cut or sell brands and force hundreds of dealers out of business — all in three weeks.

“I just don’t see how it’s possible, given all of the pieces,” said Stephen J.

Lubben, a professor at Seton Hall University School of Law who specializes in bankruptcy.

GM, which has received \$15.4 billion in federal aid, faces a June 1 government deadline to complete its restructuring plan. If it can’t finish in time, the company will follow Detroit competitor Chrysler LLC into bankruptcy protection.

Although company executives said last week they would still prefer to restructure out of court, experts say all GM is doing now is lining up majorities of stakeholders to make its court-supervised

reorganization move more quickly.

“If we need to pursue bankruptcy, we will make sure that we do it in an expeditious fashion. The exact strategies I’m not getting into today, but we’ll be ready to go if that’s required,” Chief Executive Fritz Henderson said last week.

The threat of bankruptcy, however, may be just a negotiating ploy to pull reluctant bondholders into the equity swap deal. In Chrysler’s case, some secured debtholders resisted taking roughly 30 cents on the dollar

for what they were owed, but most gave in after they were identified in court documents. Henderson, who took over in March when the government ousted Rick Wagoner, said last week there’s still time to get everything done by the deadline, although he conceded it will be difficult to meet a government requirement that 90 percent of its thousands of bondholders agree to the stock swap.

The biggest obstacle to GM restructuring out of court appears to be its bondholders, who have been reluctant to sign on to the stock swap when the government and United Auto Workers union would get far more stock in exchange for debts owed by GM.

GM has proposed issuing 62 billion new shares, 100 times more than the 611 million now offered publicly.

Even though the U.S. government has agreed to back up GM and Chrysler new-car warranties, potential car buyers already view GM as if it’s in bankruptcy, reflected by the company’s steep revenue drop in the latest quarter, Lubben said. On Thursday, GM posted a \$6 billion first-quarter loss and said its revenue dropped plunged by nearly half, largely because bankruptcy fears scared customers away from showrooms.

“I don’t think anyone is buying cars from a company who is wringing their hands about a potential bankruptcy for the past year or so,” he said.

Under Chapter 11, a company can stay in operation under court protection while sheds debts and unprofitable assets to emerge in a stronger financial position.

At this point, GM needs to

## Target’s activist shareholder to hold town meeting

NEW YORK — Less than three weeks ahead of what’s expected to be a heated proxy contest at Target’s annual shareholders’ meeting, activist shareholder William Ackman aims to strengthen his case to investors for a new slate of directors by personally introducing his roster at a town hall meeting here Monday.

According to documents filed Friday with the Securities and Exchange Commission, Ackman, who runs Pershing Square Capital Management, which owns a 7.8 percent stake in the discounter, intends to “improve Target’s board and consequently, help make Target a stronger, more profitable and more valuable company.”

Friday’s filing outlined Ackman’s reasons for why investors should pick his nominees and offered comparisons to the Target’s incumbent nominees.

“We believe that the deficit of relevant experience and the lack of significant shareholder representation on

Target’s board has contributed to the company’s material underperformance during this recession,” Ackman noted in Friday’s filing.

Since March, Ackman has been pressing his case in a series of regulatory filings to nominate his own slate of five candidates — including himself — to Target’s board. That number includes the seat left vacant by the resignation of Robert J. Ulrich, former chairman and chief executive, who resigned from the board on Jan. 31. In addition to Ackman, Pershing Square has nominated Winthrop Realty Trust Chairman and CEO Michael Ashner, former Starbucks Corp. CEO Jim Donald, law professor Ronald Gilson, and Richard Vague, the former chairman and CEO of First USA. Ackman has maintained that this slate will bolster the board’s expertise in retail, credit cards and real estate issues. In the filing, Ackman insisted that the nominees are “entirely independent” and have “no

preconceived agenda other than to maximize shareholder value.” Target has fought back by asking its shareholders to vote against Ackman’s picks and support its own board of incumbents. Target has maintained the retailer’s shareholders are best served by re-electing the four current directors whose terms expire at this year’s annual meeting, set for May 28.

Ackman has long been pushing Target to do more with its assets as part of a campaign to boost the company’s stock. But since Target rejected Pershing Square’s real estate proposal to separate the land the retailer owns underneath its stores and distribution centers, Ackman has turned his intentions to shaking up the board. Target’s shares have fallen 45 percent since May 2008 to \$28.83 on March 16, the day before Ackman announced the proposal for new board nominees, but have rallied to \$43 since then. Shares are still down 16 percent from a year ago.



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# SPORTS

## Aruba TODAY



# Stenson shoots 66 to blow away field at Players



**Henrik Stenson, of Sweden, holds up the winner's trophy after his four shot victory at The Players Championship golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., Sunday, May 10, 2009.**  
Associated Press

DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

PONTE VEDRA BEACH, Florida (AP) — Henrik Stenson has won The Players Championship with a flawless final round on the treacherous TPC Sawgrass, playing without a bogey for a 6-under 66 and a four-shot victory.

The 33-year-old Swede started the day five shots behind Alex Cejka, in a six-way tie for second that included Tiger Woods.

But as Cejka collapsed with a 42 on the front nine, Stenson surged ahead and never let off until he tapped in for par for his second PGA Tour victory, and the biggest win of his career.

Stenson finished at 12-under 276 to finish four shots clear of Ryder Cup teammate Ian Poulter. He earned \$1.71 million and moves to No. 5 in the world.

Woods played in the final group and was never a factor.

He was part of the six-way tie that included Stenson, and even as Cejka faltered to a 42 on the front nine, Woods couldn't take advantage. He finished with a 1-over 73 to finish alone in eighth. It was his first top 10 at The Players Championship since he won in 2001, and it kept alive his streak of 16 consecutive stroke-play events in the top 10 worldwide.

Stenson, who won for the 10th time in his career worldwide, finished at 12-under 276 and earned \$1.71 million. He will move to No. 5 in the world ranking.

It was the second-largest comeback at The Players Championship, and matched the largest rally on the Stadium Course. Justin Leonard also came from five shots behind to win in 1998.

Cejka lost his lead in four holes after going at the flag from a bunker and watched his ball carom off the bulkhead and into the water. He made only one birdie and shot a 79.

John Mallinger (70) and Kevin Na (70) tied for third. They were among a dozen players who had hopes of winning on the back nine, one of the most unpredictable stretches in golf.

Stenson, a Swede who shows little emotion even when playing in his skivvies, never gave anyone much hope.

Davis Love III also played bogey-free for a 64 when he rallied to victory in blustery conditions, although the course was softened by rain. Stenson, playing in the third-to-last group, matched the lowest round of the day, nearly 7.5 strokes better than the field average.

Continued on page 18

## Kerr's birdie at No. 15 gives her Michelob victory

HANK KURZ Jr.  
AP Sports Writer

WILLIAMSBURG, Virginia (AP) — Cristie Kerr emerged from a four-way tie for the lead with a tap-in birdie on the par-5 15th hole and held on to win her second Michelob Ultra Open.

Kerr, who also won in 2005, went from one shot behind to the lead when Song-Hee Kim of South Korea made a double bogey on the par-4 16th and Kerr made her birdie moments later a hole behind.

The putt gave her a 16-under total, and when other challengers In-Kyung Kim and third-round co-leader Lindsey Wright also made bogeys, Kerr led by two shots with two holes left.

Kerr finished at 16-under 268 for her 12th career victory and the \$330,000 winner's check. In-Kyung Kim finished in second place when Wright

bogeyed the finishing hole. Wright, who shared the third-round lead with Kerr, and Song-Hee Kim shared fourth at 271.

Wright, who shared the third-round lead with Kerr, and Song-Hee Kim shared third at 271.

Lorena Ochoa, whose 13-under total after two rounds was a tournament record, started the day five shots back, and a birdie on the first hole hinted that she might make a charge.

But the world's top-ranked player followed with bogeys on three of her next four holes and faded. After making the turn at 14 under Saturday, she was 7 over the rest of the way.

Kerr, meanwhile, was steady but not spectacular with two birdies and only one bogey in a 70. Of the four players in contention with four holes left, she was the only one to finish under par, and said her

new attention to her mental focus paid off in the tense final holes.

"I was surprised," she said behind the green at the 72nd hole after rolling in her short putt to clinch it. "I was even calm at 18. I guess that mental training is paying off."

Only two holes earlier, Kerr had missed a makable par putt at the par-3 13th hole, and when Wright followed by also making bogey, there was suddenly a four-way tie for the lead.

As the tension mounted, so did the mistakes by the leaders, all of whom failed to post the low numbers that dominated the first three days despite a sun-splashed but breezy Sunday. Even the greens were again softened by an overnight thunderstorm, but few took advantage.

Only half of the top 10 finishers



**Cristie Kerr celebrates winning the LPGA Michelob Ultra Open golf tournament at Kingsmill Golf Club in Williamsburg, Va., Sunday, May 10, 2009. Kerr won the tournament at 16 under par.**

Associated Press

shot under par, and none was better than 3 under.

But it was Kerr, chirping at her ball in the air, who made the play of the day.

At No. 15, she was about 220 yards out and went for the green in two.

"Come on, be right! Come on!" she pleaded as she watched it soar toward the

green, where it rolled on and then just over, leaving her with a puttable ball from the back fringe.

From there, a two-putt birdie was more than enough to carry her to her first victory of the year as her less-experienced challengers all failed to come up with the shot they needed.



*NBA Playoffs*

# Rockets rip Lakers 99-87 without Yao, even series

By CHRIS DUNCAN

AP Sports Writer

HOUSTON — The Houston Rockets not only beat the Los Angeles Lakers without Yao Ming, they made it look easy. Aaron Brooks scored a career-high 34, Shane Battier sank five 3-pointers and added 23 and the Houston Rockets routed the Los Angeles Lakers 99-87 on Sunday to even their Western Conference semifinal at two games apiece.

Luis Scola had 11 points and 14 rebounds as the Rockets got exactly the team effort they needed after Yao broke his left foot in the Lakers' win in Game 3.

Game 5 is Tuesday night in Los Angeles, and anyone who thought the Rockets were finished without their best player only needed to

watch the first few minutes on Sunday, when Houston built a 22-7 lead.

Pau Gasol scored 30 points and Kobe Bryant had a quiet 15 for Los Angeles.

Lakers coach Phil Jackson warned his team about taking the Rockets too lightly after hearing about Yao's injury. But the Lakers looked lethargic from the start, giving away careless turnovers and playing lax defense.

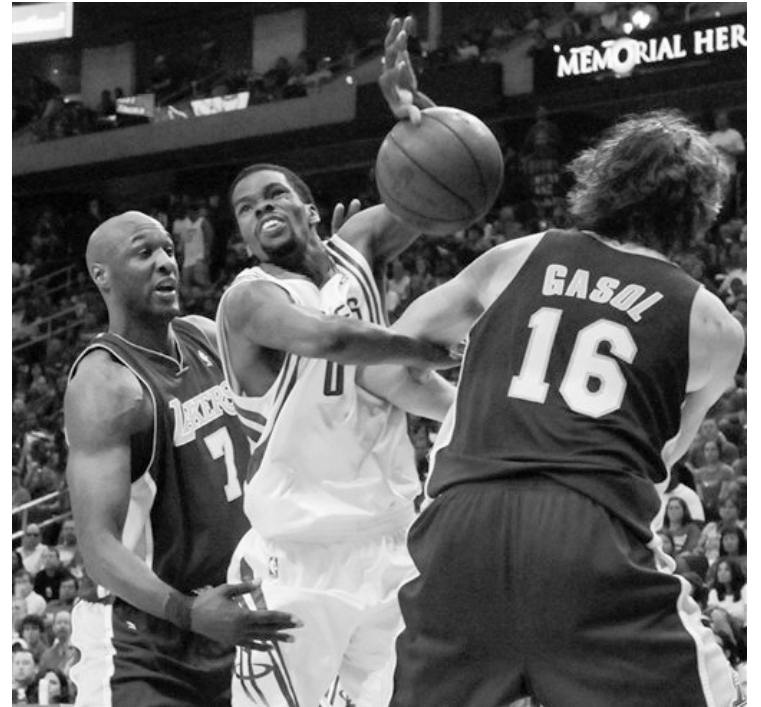
The Rockets opened the game with a 22-7 run, starting 4-of-5 from 3-point range. Bryant scored the Lakers' first three baskets, but the rest of the team missed its first seven shots. Houston led 54-36 at the break. The Lakers grabbed only two offensive rebounds and generated only four fast-break points in their lowest-scoring

half of the season. Battier had 15 points at halftime, two more than Bryant.

The Rockets outscored Los Angeles 29-18 in the decisive third quarter, led by Brooks' 17 points. The speedy, 6-foot guard finished the quarter by catching a midcourt pass by Ron Artest and putting in a layup just before the buzzer.

Lamar Odom, who scored 16 points in Game 3, drove into Battier and was called for a charge midway through the quarter. He hit the floor hard, limped to the bench and went to the locker room with back spasms. He did not return.

And when Brooks completed the last-second alley-oop, Artest smacked his hands on the scorers' table and smiled to the roaring crowd, in seeming disbelief about the way things



Los Angeles Lakers Lamar Odom (7) and Pau Gasol (16) pressure Houston Rockets' Aaron Brooks (0) during the second half of Game 4 of their second round Western Conference NBA playoff basketball game Sunday, May 10, 2009 in Houston. The Rockets won 99-87, Brooks scored 34 points.

Associated Press

## Petacchi wins 2nd stage of Giro; Armstrong in pack

ANDREW DAMPF

AP Sports Writer

TRIESTE, Italy (AP) — Alessandro Petacchi edged Mark Cavendish to win the second stage of the Giro d'Italia in a mass sprint Sunday, while Lance Armstrong finished in the main pack and gained time on overall race favorite Ivan Basso.

Cavendish retained the overall leader's pink jersey.

Basso and Armstrong's Astana teammate Levi Leipheimer each finished 13 seconds behind the main pack, losing time when the group was split by a crash with five kilometers remaining.

"That's the risk of the early stages in a big tour in a finale. I was lucky to be there with (Jose Luis Rubiera) and he kept me out of trouble," Armstrong said.

Attempting to avoid crashes, the seven-time Tour de France winner rode near the front of the group for the final kilometers, always recognizable with his black Livestrong helmet.

"It's a little-bit nerve-racking the final there," Armstrong said. "The circuits with the traffic islands, the potholes and crashes everywhere. The temptation is to hit the brakes when sometimes you have to take some risks to stay in front."

Petacchi, an Italian with the LPR Brakes team, covered the mostly flat 96.94-mile route from Jesolo to the northeastern city of Trieste in 3 hours, 43 minutes, 7 seconds.

It was the 20th Giro stage win of Petacchi's

career.

"I've been thinking about how to beat Cavendish for three days and I did it exactly how I thought I would," said Petacchi, who held off a late comeback from the Isle of Man resident.

Cavendish and third-place finisher Ben Swift were given the same time, as was the chasing pack.

Cavendish, the British standout of the Columbia squad that won the team time trial to open the Giro on Saturday, leads the overall standings by 14 seconds ahead of teammate Mark Renshaw. Armstrong crossed 42nd with the same time as Petacchi and moved up from 15th to 10th overall, 27 seconds behind Cavendish.

"Not bad," Armstrong said. "I felt good on the bike. My legs felt good. I felt good in the group. Obviously I was a little nervous in the circuits like everyone is, but overall impressions were good."

Leipheimer dropped to 18th overall, 40 seconds behind Cavendish, and Basso fell to 45th, 1:07 back.

"I still don't think I'm a contender for the overall, but I feel better than I thought I would feel," Armstrong said.

The stage began at a beach resort near Venice and wrapped right along the seaside for the final 30 miles to this city nestled near the Slovenian and Croatian borders. The stage ended in bright sunshine with riders completing three circuits through the city's center.

Armstrong is riding the Giro for the first time and he was impressed by the crowds.

were going.

Artest scored only eight points, but had 10 rebounds and six assists.

Bryant returned from a long rest with 5:41 left in the game

and the Lakers cut the deficit to 10. But it was too late by then and Brooks fittingly scored Houston's last two points on free throws in the final minute.



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Tiger Woods reacts after a shot on the seventh hole during the final round of The Players Championship golf tournament at TPC Sawgrass in Ponte Vedra Beach, Fla., Sunday, May 10, 2009. Associated Press

## Players

Continued from page 16

He missed only one fairway. The only times he came remotely close to a bogey, he holed par putts of 8 feet on the front nine.

Stenson joined the leaders at 7 under with his chip-in birdie from just off the seventh green — Ben Crane, Retief Goosen and Poulter also were atop the board — then took the outright lead with a two-putt from 55 feet on the fringe at the par-5 ninth.

“I was thinking this that if I could finish in front of Tiger, that might be good enough,” Poulter said. “But I wasn’t expecting someone to go out there and shoot 66.”

Woods pulled his tee shot on the par-5 second into the trees, the ball dropping to the

pine straw. He hit his next shot into the water and took bogey, then dropped more shots by hitting into the rough on No. 4 and laying up short of the water, and by hitting into a pot bunker at No. 7 that forced him to play out sideways.

It was rare to see Woods, decked out in his Sunday red, playing in a final group with nothing at stake over the final holes.

The way Stenson was playing, it didn’t matter what anyone was doing.

He stretched his lead with a

pitching wedge into 2½ feet for birdie on the 15th, then two-putted for another birdie on the 16th, taking some of the fear factor from standing on the 17th tee, staring at an island.

Once his ball found land, it was over.

“I could afford to go bogey-bogey and still win it,” Stenson said. “That’s always a handy situation to be in.”

With the victory comes a three-year exemption to the Masters and a five-year exemption on the PGA Tour if he wants it.

## Gasquet confirms test came back positive for coke

By JEROME PUGMIRE

AP Sports Writer

PARIS — French tennis player Richard Gasquet has acknowledged he’s been told he tested positive for cocaine but says he’s innocent.

“I am gathering together proof of my innocence and I will choose an appropriate moment to express myself,” Gasquet said in a statement Sunday.

Gasquet said the “B” sample from the tournament in Key Biscayne, Fla., confirmed the result of the “A” sample taken the same day.

The Web site of sports daily L’Equipe reported Saturday that traces of the banned drug were found in the 22-year-old Gasquet’s urine sample at the Sony Ericsson Open, where he pulled out after the first round.

The French tennis federation called the report “very surprising” and said Sunday it would wait for official confirmation before taking any action against him.

Gasquet cited a right shoulder injury when he withdrew before his second-round match against Albert Montanes. He could face a two-year ban or a three-month ban if the tests conclude the product was consumed out of competition.

“I know his lifestyle and this surprises me enormously as it’s not like him. I had him on the phone, he is sad and really shocked,” French tennis player Fabrice Santoro told Europe 1 radio station on Sunday.

Michael Llodra, his Davis Cup doubles partner, said Gasquet would have to accept the consequences if he did take cocaine.

“Cocaine is not a doping product but it is still a banned substance. So, if it is confirmed, he will have to live with that and explain himself,” Llodra said. “It would be harmful for French tennis, but he alone will suffer the consequences.”

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*NL Roundup*

# Cards overcome 5 homers, beat Reds 8-7 in 10

CINCINNATI (AP) — Colby Rasmus doubled home a run in the 10th inning Sunday as the St. Louis Cardinals overcame five Cincinnati homers — including two solo shots in the ninth — to beat the Reds 8-7 and salvage their series finale. Rasmus got his decisive hit off Francisco Cordero (0-2), who is perfect in nine save chances but has lost twice when pitching with the score tied. Jerry Hairston Jr. and Micah Owings, the Reds' fifth starter and one of their top pinch hitters, homered in the ninth off Ryan Franklin (1-0) to tie it at 7 and end the closer's run of perfection. Franklin had converted all nine save chances and hadn't allowed a run all season. Given another chance to close it out, the Cardinals struggled again. Cincinnati loaded the bases with two outs in the 10th against Blaine Boyer. Right-hander Chris Perez came on and got pinch-hitter Paul Janish to foul out, picking up his first save this season. Jay Bruce, Adam Rosales and Joey Votto also homered for the Reds, who had won three in a row for their best record in three years.

Albert Pujols hit his 12th homer for the Cardinals. Giants 7, Dodgers 5, 13 innings. At Los Angeles, Randy Winn hit a tiebreaking, two-run single with the bases loaded in the 13th inning and finished with four hits, leading San Francisco over Los Angeles. Juan Pierre had three hits for the second straight game and scored three times for the Dodgers, who went 8-3 on a homestand in which they set a modern major league record with a 13-0 start at home and then lost Manny Ramirez to a 50-game suspension. The defending NL West champions are 1-3 since their slugging left fielder was suspended Thursday for using a banned drug. Brian Wilson (2-0) got the win with two innings of one-hit ball. Guillermo Mota (2-1) was the loser. Mets 8, Pirates 4. At New York, Livan Hernandez survived a shaky start to go six innings as New York welcomed manager Jerry Manuel back from his one-game suspension by beating Pittsburgh for its seventh straight victory. Carlos Beltran, Luis Castillo

and Omir Santos each drove in a pair of runs for the Mets, who haven't lost since May 2 at Philadelphia. The 34-year-old Hernandez (3-1) allowed two runs and seven hits for his 150th career win. Manuel was back in the New York dugout after serving a suspension for making contact with an umpire Thursday. Nate McLouth hit a two-run homer in the ninth and finished with three RBIs for the bumbling Pirates, who held a team meeting before the game. Ian Snell (1-5) got the loss. Cubs 4, Brewers 2. At Milwaukee, Alfonso Soriano hit a towering two-run homer in a four-run third inning as Chicago beat Milwaukee to avoid a series sweep. Cubs starter Sean Marshall (1-2) settled down after a rocky start, giving up a pair of runs and five hits in five innings. Marshall left the game with the Cubs holding a 4-2 lead, handing the ball over to what has been a surprisingly vulnerable Chicago bullpen. Angel Guzman didn't allow a baserunner in the sixth or seventh, and Carlos Marmol



St. Louis Cardinals' Colby Rasmus, left, high-fives catcher Yadier Molina after they defeated the Cincinnati Reds 8-7 in 10 innings in a baseball game, Sunday, May 10, 2009, in Cincinnati. Rasmus drove in the winning run in the tenth inning with a double. Associated Press

managed to pitch out of a bases-loaded jam in a messy eighth inning. Kevin Gregg pitched the ninth and walked Rickie Weeks with one out before striking out Corey Hart and Ryan Braun for his sixth

save. Braves 4, Phillies 2. At Philadelphia, Casey Kotchman had three hits and three RBIs, Kenshin Kawakami pitched six effective innings and Atlanta

*NHL Playoffs*

# Red Wings beat Ducks 4-1, taking 3-2 series lead

By LARRY LAGE  
AP Sports Writer  
DETROIT — Johan Franzen, Jiri Hudler, Darren Helm and Henrik Zetterberg scored, helping the Detroit Red Wings beat the Anaheim Ducks 4-1 on Sunday. The defending Stanley Cup champions' dominating performance gave them a 3-2 lead in the Western Conference semifinal series. Game 6 will be Tuesday night at Anaheim. Ryan Whitney scored late in the second period and Jonas Hiller stopped 34 shots, giving

the Ducks a chance until Helm made it 3-1 with 3:08 left. Zetterberg added an empty-net goal in the final minute. Detroit's Chris Osgood finished with 16 saves. Franzen had his seventh goal of the postseason and scored for the 20th time in 25 playoff games since the start of last year's title run. He usually blends in behind the Red Wings' other stars, unless it's the playoffs. Franzen, who has six goals in six games, scored twice in Game 4 to help Detroit even

the series in Anaheim. The player nicknamed Mule scored 13 times in the playoffs last year, matching a franchise record for one postseason, despite missing six games because blood pooled between his skull and brain. In the pivotal Game 5, he scored the first goal at 3:23 of the second period. Franzen skated up the right boards, swooped into the right circle and flicked a wrist shot high on Hiller after many of Detroit's first 16 shots were low. Hudler scored 39 seconds



later, whacking a puck out of the air after Hiller deflected it. The goal held up after a video review.

Whitney prevented the Ducks from being shut out with his goal late in the second period.



# Russia edges Canada 2-1 in hockey worlds final

**GRAHAM DUNBAR**  
AP Sports Writer  
BERN, Switzerland (AP) — Russia won the gold-medal match at the ice hockey world championship Sunday, beating Canada 2-1 in a rematch of last year's final.

The Russians defended their title on a game-tying power-play goal from Oleg Saprykin in the first and a winning score from forward Alex Radulov late in the second. Canada led early on Jason Spezza's goal. Victory was keyed by goalkeeper Ilya Bryzgalov who made 37 saves. Russia forced just 15 stops from Dwayne Roloson in the Canada goal.

Russia coach Slava Bykov said he hoped his team was

creating a new dynasty with its second straight title after a 15-year drought.

"We have a young team and more young players," Bykov said through a translator.

Canada coach Lindy Ruff said his team didn't make many mistakes but missed great opportunities to score.

"We've got silver and they have a gold — sometimes hockey is a cruel sport," Ruff said.

"Bryzgalov was very good and didn't make the mistake that was going to allow us back into the game."

Russia, which went unbeaten through the tournament despite trailing in six of its nine matches, now holds a 25-24 edge over Canada in total world titles.



Russian players hold the trophy after winning the Gold Medal Game between Russia and Canada at the IIHF 2009 World Championship at the Postfinance-Arena in Berne, Switzerland, on Sunday May 10, 2009.  
Associated Press

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Sweden won the bronze medal, beating the United States 4-2 earlier Sunday.

After a frenetic start, Canada captain Shane Doan took the first penalty call but on his next shift backhanded a pass across the crease for Spezza to scoop his shot into the net. The goal came at 5:37 and was Spezza's seventh, equaling the tournament best.

A game-delay penalty was called on Braydon Coburn, and Russia used the power play to tie the game at 12:59. Saprykin got in front of Roloson and diverted Vitali Atyushov's slap shot into the net low to the goalie's left.

Early in the second period, Steve Stamkos went through the Russia's defense and Bryzgalov's stick diverted the puck up on the top side of the net.

Russia's star forward Ilya Kovalchuk would skate more than 30 minutes yet was kept quiet by the blue line of Nashville Predators pair Dan Hamhuis and Shea Weber.

Russia took the lead at 14:30 on a breakaway set up by Saprykin's pass back through his legs along the left boards.

Konstantin Gorovikov fed

Radulov, and the youngest player on the Russian roster cut in through the right circle and fired left-handed past Roloson.

Canada soon got the only power play of the period but Stamkos was denied in the crease when the net was momentarily open.

In the third, Stamkos wristed a shot just over the goal then Dany Heatley's shot from between the circles struck the cross bar.

Russia was protecting its lead and got some respite with seven minutes left when Mike Fisher was sent to the box for tripping.

Canada's best late chance came when Doan had a clear path to goal on Spezza's breakaway pass with under two minutes to go, but the captain slipped crossing the blue line.

"That one still stick with me for a very long time," Doan said.

At the end tournament Most Valuable Player Kovalchuk was joined in a leaping embrace by Radulov, who might have been suspended from the tournament after breaking his Nashville Predators contract last summer to return home.

His walkout sparked an on-going transfer dispute between the NHL and Russian KHL league but the IIHF governing body found it did not have the authority to discipline him.

"It's in the past and we will see what is going to happen next year," Radulov said. "I'm happy that I'm in the national team."

In the bronze-medal match, Sweden scored all four goals on power plays. Loui Eriksson and Tony Martensson netted in the second period and Carl Gunnarsson added a third with 11 minutes left. Johnny Oduya scored into an empty net in the final seconds.

The U.S. took the lead on Jack Johnson's power-play shot in the second, and tied the game on Joe Pavelski's solo effort early in the third.

"I'm very proud of this young team. They played their hearts out and probably deserved a better fate over the last two games," said U.S. coach Ron Wilson, whose side gave up a late power-play goal in a 3-2 semifinal loss to Russia.

Stefan Liv had 37 saves for the win, and Robert Esche made 24 stops.



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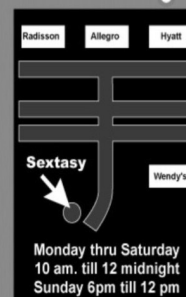


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# Varios estados mexicanos retrasan vuelta a clases por influenza

MEXICO DF (Reuters) - Al menos siete estados de México retrasarán una semana más el retorno a clases previsto para el lunes, luego de la suspensión por la emergencia sanitaria ante un brote de influenza, al reportar nuevos casos de contagio. México es el epicentro de una epidemia global de influenza que ha contagiado a más de 4,300 personas en 29 países. El virus ha causado la muerte de unas 53 personas a nivel mundial, 48 de ellas en el país latinoamericano. El país paralizó casi completamente sus actividades, entre ellas las clases a todos los niveles, desde el 23 de abril para controlar el contagio. Pero luego de que los reportes de nuevos casos se han estabilizado, según el Gobierno, el país comenzó la semana pasada un

cauteloso retorno a la normalidad. Universidades y escuelas preparatorias reiniciaron clases la semana pasada. Autoridades federales dijeron que escuelas de educación básica reabrirán sus puertas a partir del 11 de mayo, luego de que padres y maestros desinfectaron miles de planteles el fin de semana para reducir el riesgo de infección. Sin embargo medios locales dijeron que varios estados, entre ellos Jalisco, donde está la segunda mayor ciudad del país, Guadalajara, y Guerrero, sede del popular balneario turístico Acapulco, extenderán la suspensión de clases hasta el 18 de mayo tras detectarse nuevos casos en sus regiones. El sureño estado de Chiapas y el central Zacatecas fueron los más recientes en sumarse



*Foto del 7 de mayo. Una mujer limpia pupitres como parte de un programa de desinfección en una escuela de Monterrey. Al menos siete estados de México retrasarán una semana más el retorno a clases previsto para el lunes, luego de la suspensión por la emergencia sanitaria ante un brote de influenza, al reportar nuevos casos de contagio. REUTERS/Tomas Bravo (MEXICO)*

## Levantado paro de camioneros colombianos

BOGOTA (AP) - La Asociación Colombiana de Camioneros anunció el fin de una huelga al cabo de 19 días y que dejó en evidencia una fuerte división en el gremio del transporte de carga. La decisión de levantar la huelga se anunció el sábado en la noche luego que el presidente de la asociación, Pedro Aguilar, y otros directivos dialogaran durante dos días con representantes de las principales

regionales del país a fin de evitar una eventual confrontaciones entre los afiliados. "La Asociación Colombiana de Camioneros se permite comunicar que ha sido levantada la movilización nacional camionera. Reiteramos nuestro compromiso de seguir defendiendo los intereses del sector camionero en nuestro país", dijo un comunicado de la organización.

a la suspensión, junto con San Luis Potosí, Hidalgo y varios municipios del occidental Nayarit.

Michoacán, el estado de origen del presidente Felipe Calderón, reiniciará las clases el 12 de mayo, mientras completa la limpieza de las escuelas, según diarios locales.

El secretario de Educación de México, Alonso Lujambio, dijo en una entrevista con el diario El Universal que "si fuera riesgoso (el regreso a clases) no se hubiera aprobado", y comentó que las suspensiones en esos estados respondían a un tema de

prevención de sus autoridades. Funcionarios de la Secretaría de Educación Pública (SEP) no estuvieron disponibles de inmediato para comentar sobre la suspensión en esos estados. La SEP emitió recomendaciones de higiene para la vuelta a clases y dijo que proveería artículos de higiene como detergente, cloro y jabón, así como cubrebocas. En un comunicado, advirtió que "el primer filtro se da en el hogar: que los estudiantes con algún padecimiento respiratorio permanezcan en casa y por ningún motivo sean enviados a la escuela por sus padres".

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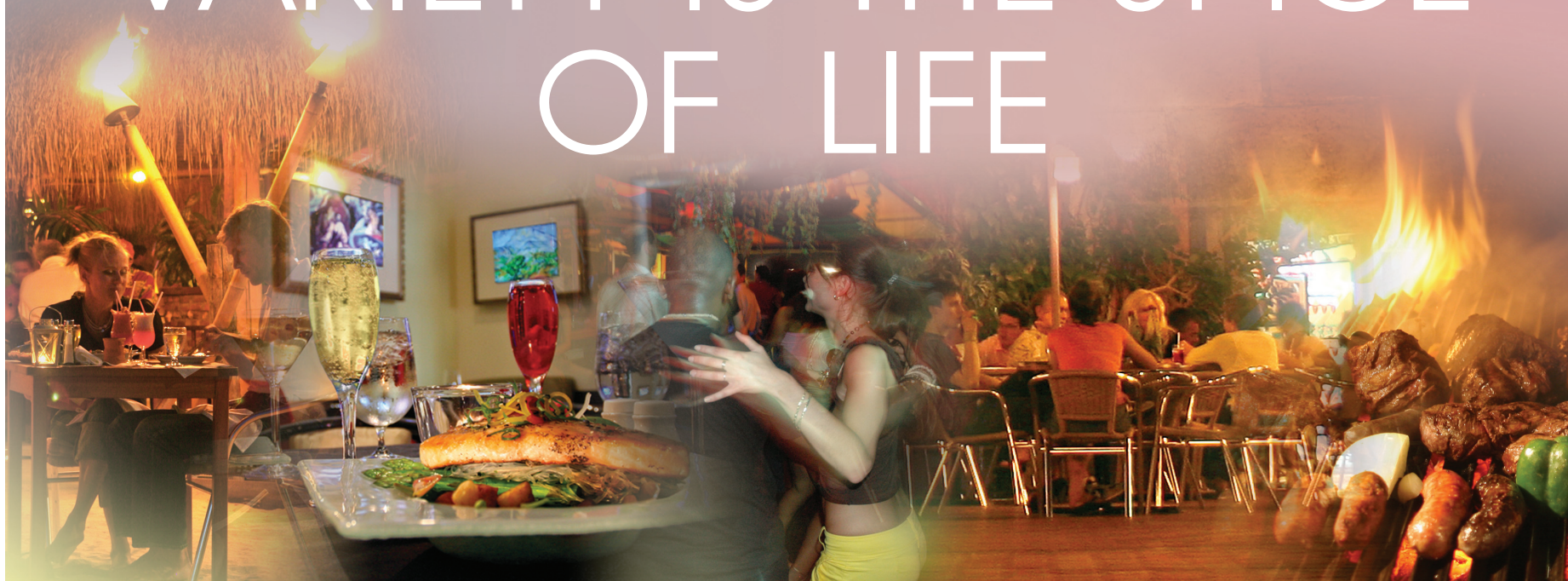
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